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UNPRECEDENTED RESPONSE TO GEM WELSH LANGUAGE PAGE
(See letters on pages 2, 17, 32 and 33)

COUNCIL MERGER IS 'DEAD IN THE WATER'
(SEE STORY ON PAGE 18)

'WE MUST NEVER FORGET NAZI HOLOCAUST'

Pictured on Holocaust Memorial Day in Bridgend are MP Madeleine Moon, BCBC Leader Coun Mel Nott, Rev Stephen Pare, Mayor's consort Ms Kay Jenkins, county Mayor Coun Gary Thomas, compère Phoebe Lewis, compère Jack Davies, Carwyn Jones AM, Ogmore AM Janice Gregory, Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies. (SEE PAGE 4).

Bodybuilder knocked out holidaymaker with one punch – court is told

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

WEARING a t-shirt with 'Lethal' printed on it, and fuelled by alcohol and cocaine, a man who took muscle-enhancing drugs, attacked a customer in a Porthcawl pub during the Elvis festival on September 27, 2014, a court heard.

The victim, 66-year-old Terrence Niblett, who was having a caravan holiday, was knocked off his feet unconscious and came around when being treated by members of the St John Ambulance.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Gavin Williams (31) of Bron-y-Wain, Garth, Maesteg, was given an extended sentence for three years involving 34 weeks' imprisonment.

Judge Philip Richards told him: "You could end up killing someone or seriously injuring someone. You really have to take a hold of your life.

"Your conduct was appalling and you were out of control. You used unjustifiable force against an entirely innocent human being."

Williams admitted a charge of causing actual bodily harm. The court heard he was currently serving a three-year extended sentence involving 34 weeks' imprisonment for offences of causing actual bodily harm and possessing cocaine.

Prosecutor John Warren said: "This was an unprovoked attack involving a single punch during the Elvis festival."

He said that Mr Niblett and family were in the Hi-Tide pub sitting near the toilet area. There was a dispute about two chairs and a number of women became argumentative.

"Williams approached and without warning, punched Mr Niblett on the chin, knocking him off his feet and to the floor, unconscious."

Seconds later, Williams ran into the street and into a crowd.

Mr Niblett suffered a half-inch cut to his chin which needed three stitches.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

Work is set to start on £2m scheme for new railway bridge

TWO businesses in St Bride's Major fear they could suffer huge losses when they find themselves in a "cul de sac" when a railway bridge between their village and Ewenny is replaced, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

The scheme, which has been many years in the planning, is being carried out by Network Rail and the Vale Council and will cost almost £2 million.

Details announced recently confirmed that the project will take five months, starting in early February, and a diversion will be set up, taking traffic through Ogmore-by-Sea and Southerndown.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'We are proud of our native language…'

WE would like to thank and congratulate The GEM on its initiative in publishing occasional pages in Welsh.

This is a valuable addition to the services the paper offers its community. It further reflects the growth in the use of the Welsh language in Cowbridge schools, societies, women's organisations, musical groups and social circles.

The anonymous, intolerant letter writer of January 22 asserts that Cowbridge and the Vale "has always been an oasis of Englishness." The historical reality is that Welsh and English have co-existed in the area since Norman times.

Currently, the use of Welsh is on the increase, as demonstrated by the popularity of Welsh medium education and the high numbers of fluent young people. This promises well for a bi-lingual future.

We would urge the anonymous letter writer to make him/herself more aware of the numerous formal and informal groups in Cowbridge who meet and socialise in Welsh.

We invite her/him to join us in the Cwtsh Bar of The Bear any Friday morning. There he or she will find a mixture of Welsh speakers and Welsh learners – Cowbridge people proud of their native language,

We are delighted that The GEM seeks to serve all sections of its public – even in the face of ill-informed prejudice.

George Crabb, Deborah Davies, Ann Evans, Jean Lloyd, Jean Roderick, Gareth Thomas , Nigel Thomas, Rhiannon Williams.

'Wales is bilingual'

WHEN The GEM was delivered to my door last week, I was looking forward to reading the Welsh page: it was with sadness I read The GEM had been attacked for publishing it!

Wales is a bilingual country with both Welsh and English spoken and I am pleased The GEM has been inclusive in publishing in both languages.

The anonymous person who wrote the letter may be reminded that today's society is about inclusion and diversity and with the tone of language used in their letter, he or she could be termed 'racist'.

Cowbridge and the Vale have both Welsh and English-speaking families, and people like myself who are learning the language. I know my grandfather, who was Welsh, would be proud of me learning the language.

I sincerely hope you do continue publishing the Welsh page and not pander to an anonymous letter from a very bigoted person.

(***Name and address supplied***)

A 'BRITISH' language

THANK you for your balanced and reasonable reply to the anonymous writer who complained about having Welsh in your excellent paper.

As it stands, the Welsh language is a British language and a part of its heritage. Maybe 'anonymous' is a descendant of one of the three commissioners of the Blue Books of 1847, and their mindset has not progressed!

Aled Hughes,
Llantwit Major.

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The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

The anonymous letter writer who lambasted The GEM for publishing a page in Welsh last week, accusing us of "pandering to a minority", provoked a huge response from readers, who have swelled the Editor's postbag – and all, without exception, expressed support for this newspaper's stance.

'Why should anyone object to me learning my country's language?'

UNLIKE the anonymous writer in last week's GEM letters page, I'm happy to give my name. I partially agree with some of the comments made in that letter; Cowbridge is a nice town and I'm very happy to live near here.

Whether it is "special", I don't know. I visit many other nice towns in south Wales – Llantwit Major, Crickhowell, Brecon, Abergavenny, Llandeilo – all very pleasant places.

The writer says it's "successful". If he or she means that there are expensive houses in the area, Maseratis, Ferraris, BMWs, Mercedes, etc, parked along the High Street, then yes, it is a successful town.

But doesn't this disprove the writer's view that people are moving away from the area for a better "lifestyle and a better education"? And I know that parents still move into the Cowbridge Comprehensive School catchment area for the benefit of their children's education.

However, my real disagreement with this mysterious writer is with his aggression towards Welsh speakers and the language – which, by the way, is older than English. Two years ago (at the age of 66) I started learning Welsh.

Having been born and bred in Pontypridd, and moving to Llysworney 28 years ago, I suddenly became more aware and proud of my Welsh nationality and decided to learn my country's language. (Why on earth would anyone object to this?)

I'm now in my second year and I attend three classes each week; one in Cowbridge town and two in Bridgend. The classes are very well attended, with a mixture of English people who moved to this area for work reasons, and others who are Welsh born and bred.

In the Cowbridge class, the split is approximately 80 per cent English 20 per cent Welsh. I know that some of the students are in their sixth year, so it's obviously an ongoing project.

Of my 80 per cent English classmates in Cowbridge, at least half are mothers in their 20s/30s with children attending the Welsh school.

This was the free choice of the English parents and because of this, the mothers have also decided to learn Welsh. Not for business or for professional reasons, but because they think it's a good thing to do – perhaps just as one might if moving to France, for example.

Since I started my classes, I'm surprised actually how much Welsh is spoken around town. Perhaps our writer would like to know that every week the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge has coffee mornings for Welsh speakers, that until very recently a local café used Welsh with its customers (it has now changed hands).

A dress shop in the town has a Welsh-speaking proprietor, and if they were to visit the Waitrose coffee shop, one will often hear Welsh spoken at the different tables.

So, I don't think that Cowbridge is any more or less "special" for the number of Welsh or non-Welsh speaking people that live here – that's just the way it is – live with it!

Michael Tough,
Llysworney.

'Welsh is going from strength-to-strength'

MAY I congratulate The GEM and Menter Iaith Bro Morgannwg, on the new collaboration with regard to the Welsh language pages in the newspaper.

It's great that The GEM is so inclusive and mindful of the needs of the local Welsh community.

It's a progressive attitude that is so important for many of us – Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers alike.

The Welsh language is going from strength-to-strength, both in Cowbridge and in the Vale as a whole. The fact that two new Welsh medium primary schools have been opened in recent years, and with the doubling in size of Ysgol Gwaun y Nant currently under way, shows how valued the language is locally, and how demand for it has grown.

How sad to read the anonymous letter sent to The GEM last week, and to note how out of touch the writer clearly is with the goodwill that is now shown towards the language from many sectors of our community.

Diolch i chi yn y Gem am arwain y ffordd ac am eich gweledigaeth parthed y Gymraeg.

SE Jones,
Llantrithyd.

'Why does the Welsh language arouse such angry feelings?'

I REFER to the letter in last week's issue attacking The GEM for publishing an article in Welsh.

In a modern, tolerant society, diversity should be welcomed and the needs of different sections of the community recognised.

The GEM should be applauded for including Welsh language articles, because it enables certain members of the community to read news in their first language and allows schoolchildren studying Welsh, the opportunity to see the language used outside the confines of the classroom.

Why an article published in the Welsh language should arouse such fury is puzzling; but no less so than the views of previous correspondents to your newspaper who have raged at bilingual road signs or supermarket signs saying '*Croeso*' (*Welcome*).

It is difficult to understand such intolerance, and you are left wondering what it is about the beautiful and beleaguered Welsh language that conjures up quite so much anger in those who cannot tolerate its existence.

Huw Lloyd,
Aberthin.

'Proud to speak Welsh language'

I AM writing to you in reply to the letter that an anonymous reader sent in about an article being published in Welsh (The GEM, January 22).

I am a 16-year-old fluent Welsh speaker and have been since being able to talk. I am proud of this. Welsh is a language that many people cannot speak and as a young person, I feel fortunate to have this ability.

I cannot comprehend people's problem with the Welsh language. It is part of our legacy and tradition. It is, of course, a personal decision to speak the language or not – I will always respect that decision.

However, it is insulting that someone would be so rude as to mock this unique part of what makes us all Welsh. I could never go to another country, live there and insult its culture.

The Welsh language shouldn't have a negative effect at all. At my Welsh medium comprehensive, there are always outstanding GCSE and A Level results every year. Not to mention many previous pupils securing places at top universities.

If you do not want to read an article that's in Welsh, you don't have to. You are free to skip the page.

Although we all have the freedom to voice our opinion, I would appreciate if it was in a polite and respectful manner. Not as an unnecessary mockery.

Rydw i'n falch i allu siarad yr iaith Gymraeg.

Cerys Evans

'Breathtaking ignorance'

I HAVE just read the letter printed in The GEM, presumably from someone in Cowbridge, regarding the use of the Welsh language in your publication.

Surely this was written in jest, as it displays such breathtaking ignorance, that I cannot believe it has been written with any serious intent – and certainly not by anyone who is actually Welsh.

The claims made in the letter are so laughably ludicrous that it is no wonder it was sent in anonymously; no one in their right mind would want to expose themselves to the sort of ridicule that the espousing of such stupidly distorted thinking would generate.

I'm certain that the vast majority of your readers, including non-Welsh speakers, of whom I am also one, applaud your inclusion of a page in our native language and would urge you to continue for as long as you remain in business.

Peter Smith,
Porthcawl.

• SEE MORE LETTERS ON THIS TOPIC, AND OTHERS, ON PAGES 17, 32, 33.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL FEBRUARY 5)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
29 Thur	00.57	8.1	13.36	7.9
30 Fri	02.15	8.0	14.54	7.9
31 Sat	03.32	8.1	16.06	8.2
01 Sun	04.33	8.6	17.01	8.7
02 Mon	05.27	9.0	17.53	9.1
03 Tues	06.11	9.3	18.21	9.5
04 Wed	06.46	9.6	19.06	9.4
05 Thur	07.22	9.7	19.35	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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Local groups get together – to plan Samtampa memorial near Porthcawl Harbour

by PHILIP IRWIN

PUBLIC support is being sought for a memorial to one of Wales's worst – and most recent – sea disasters.

In 1947, the *SS Samtampa* ran aground at Sker Point, Porthcawl, and all aboard perished. To add to the tragedy, the Mumbles lifeboat *Edward Prince of Wales* attempted to rescue the crew, but it was overwhelmed by the sea and all the lifeboatmen were lost.

In all, 47 lost their lives. There is a memorial at Sker Point, but it is not easy to get to, and none too easy to find!

Now, Porthcawl Shout Forum, Porthcawl Museum Society and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) are working in partnership to obtain a Heritage Lottery Grant to provide a central memorial close to the sea and Porthcawl Harbour for the 70th anniversary of the disaster in 2017.

Gary Victor, a spokesman for Porthcawl Shout, said: "We would like written or email support for the project as it would greatly help our application to succeed.

"Also, a letter of support from a group or organisation on letter-headed paper would be greatly appreciated, together with reasons for endorsing the project".

The First Minister for Wales, Carwyn Jones AM, has agreed to be a patron of the project.

In the early hours of April 19, 1947, the American built Liberty Ship *SS Samtampa* left Middlesbrough with a crew of 39, bound for a dry dock inspection at Newport prior to her transfer into UK ownership.

It arrived in the Bristol Channel on the afternoon of April 23 at the same time as a powerful gale, which was developing into a terrifying hurricane.

The master, Captain Sherwell, ordered both bow anchors to be released, but within hours the storm had driven the ship from the lee of the North Devon coast right across the channel and onto the rocks at Sker.

At 6pm, the Mumbles lifeboat Edward Prince of Wales, itself 23 years old and awaiting replacement, was launched to rescue the crew, who were now in extreme danger.

Then, one of the most remarkable acts of valour and self sacrifice began with the crossing of Swansea Bay during one of the most violent seas in living memory.

Coxswain Gammon and crew arrived as the 7,200 tonne Samtampa was being broken into three pieces and the 80 HP lifeboat, with no radio, stood little chance of surviving its attempts to rescue so close to the rocks.

Both vessels were lost with all hands and 47 men died on the coast of Porthcawl. Twelve of the *Samtampa* crew remain buried together at the entrance of Porthcawl cemetery.

Mr Victor said: "Help from individuals and groups could allow this tragedy to inform, educate and inspire future generations.

"Please send any endorsement of this initiative, or any request for further information, to Gary Victor. 6 The Whimbrels, Porthcawl. Telephone 01656 783491, or email g.victor@btinternet.com"

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Man smashed glass door with headbutt

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

AN electrician headbutted the front door of a house in Pencoed, smashing the glass and causing £360 of damage, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Alexander Lewis (33) of Pontypridd, had been convicted by Bridgend Magistrates of causing damage and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was also in breach of a one-year suspended sentence, imposed for possessing a bladed item.

He was sentenced to a community order for one year, made subject to a supervision order for a year, and directed to carry out 100 hours unpaid work.

Recorder Paul Hopkins said the suspended sentence would continue, and Lewis was ordered to pay compensation of £360, prosecution costs of £340, and a £60 victim surcharge.

Said the Recorder: "You have come within a hair's breadth of going to prison. That has been my starting point. You have now used up your last opportunity. The incident must have been extremely frightening."

Prosecutor James Lewis said the defendant had been on a night out in Bristol. He had been in a relationship with Emma Davies, but there had been problems because of his jealousy.

He said he contacted her and said he was going to the house where she was staying in Hafod Las, Pencoed. She told him not to turn up, but two hours later, he knocked on the front door.

He texted her, saying: "You better answer the door, or my head will be going through it. I am serious."

Shortly afterwards, there was a loud bang and the glass of the front door shattered, after being headbutted by the defendant, who suffered a cut forehead.

Emma Davies later made a victim impact statement saying she was scared for herself and her family. A restraining order was made preventing Lewis from contacting her.

His solicitor Stuart George urged that a non-custodial sentence be passed and added: "He has a number of issues."

Floral class at Coity

THE New Year got off to a great start for Coity WI with an interesting new programme, thanks to secretary Jean Rees.

President Lyn Griffiths gave information about the exciting plans for WI centenary year.

After sharing news and taking votes for this year's Resolutions, we were treated to a challenging quiz arranged for us by Roy and Mary Poland.

Terri Moore delighted us by bringing in the pottery items made before Christmas by members of the craft class. Fired by Terri in her own kiln, the plaques, with woolly sheep designs, gave rise to equal measures of pleasure and hilarity.

Some 20 or so of our members shared in the first of the centenary celebrations with a luncheon and flower demonstration at the Aberavon Beach Hotel.

We were privileged to be entertained by WI member, Daphne Furneaux, the winner of many floral art awards, including gold and 'best in show' at the RHS and a silver gilt at Chelsea.

The beautiful arrangements were raffled at the end of the day and we were delighted to find that two of our Coity ladies each won an arrangement to take home.

Our meetings are held at Gilead Church Hall, Coity. Our next meeting is on February 19, at 7pm when 'Tales from Wales' will be presented by Debra John. New members and visitors are always welcome.

ES

GREEN SHOOTS BOOST FOR LOCAL MICRO-BUSINESSES

OVER 70 micro-businesses in Bridgend county borough have benefited from a council-run project aimed at nurturing rural business development and entrepreneurship, BCBC reports.

The Green Shoots scheme, launched in August 2012, has provided capital and revenue support for more than double the number of enterprises than its facilitators originally anticipated.

The project – which has now drawn to a successful close – was run in partnership between Bridgend County Borough Council's economic development team and the rural development programme 'reach.'

The scheme also supported the creation of 'Centres of Rural Enterprise' across the county borough, giving larger organisations the opportunity to provide incubation and assistance to micro businesses, through starter units, hot-desking, shared computing facilities and general office support services.

Council leader, Mel Nott, OBE said: "I've seen some excellent examples of the positive impact the funding has had on micro-businesses in the Bridgend county borough area. The project has supported a wide range of sectors, including professional services, ICT and media, retail, construction, renewable energy, food production and many more.

"I'm proud to say that over the two-year period, the project not only met, but far exceeded its targets, with the creation of 45 jobs against a target of 12, support for 74 existing micro enterprises against a target of 35 and help for 46 new start-ups against a target of nine.

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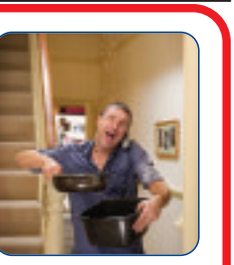
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'PUT WALES ON THE TOURISM FRONTLINE'

TOURISM operators in Porthcawl and the wider Bridgend county borough are being invited to have their say on the way that Wales is promoted to visitors.

Shadow tourism minister Suzy Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM, launched the survey into the tourism industry following consultation with frontline tourism industry players.

It will provide those who felt ignored or excluded from the consultation carried out by the Welsh its current tourism strategy, with an alternative outlet for their views.

She said: "We have already staged events in areas like Pembrokeshire, Gower and Llandudno, where tourism is a major employer.

"Now, our online survey is seeking insights into issues like how we can attract the brightest and best into tourism, the level of satisfaction among tourism operators with Visit Wales and what is Brand Wales, and how is Wales being marketed both at home and abroad."

She went on: "Committees of both the Assembly and the UK Parliament expressed concerns about the absence of a coherent brand for Wales. There is also no long-term strategy to make the country a first-choice destination."

Mrs Davies, who spoke at the Bridgend Tourism Association Forum last week, said that tourism operators could help identify and solve key challenges facing Welsh tourism and help the party develop its policies and promotion of the industry.

She added: "We know there are problems within Welsh tourism. The Minister has admitted that she got the brand of Wales wrong.

"What's important now is putting that right and moving forward successfully."

Who wants to build what and where?

*Mr Peter Ryell – **Trafalgar Wood, South Place/Close and Suffolk Close, Porthcawl** – Reduce or remove overhanging trees (mainly Sycamore) (1953) GCC No. 1.*

*Mr Jeff Williams – **Bayleaves, Marlpitt Lane, Porthcawl** – Fell 4 x Pine, 1 x Macrocarpa and 1 c Beech trees (1953) GCC No. 1.*

*Mr Darren Brown – **270/270A New Road, Porthcawl** – Non-material amendment of application P/12/878/OUT.*

*Rhondda Cynon Taff CB Council – **Graig y Aber, land north east of Forch-Orky, Treorchy** – Obs for three wind turbines and associated works.*

*Mr Martin Jones – **Gadlys Villa, Maesteg Road, Maesteg** – Two storey rear extension and raised walkway access for disabled person.*

*Mr C Roper – **2 Pen y Bryn Villas, Bettws Road, Brynmenyn** – Single storey extension to provide kitchen/bathroom.*

*Ms Emma Graham – **19a Hookland Road, Porthcawl** – Two storey side and two storey rear extensions and single storey rear extension with roof terrace over.*

*Mr J D Morgan – **Crossways, 97/99 High Street, Laleston** – Convert existing outbuilding (garden equipment store/workshop) to two bedroom detached dwelling.*

*Duvan Management – **67 John Street, Porthcawl** – Demolish and rebuild rear lean-to extension.*

*Mr Mark McCluskie – **25 John Street, Maesteg** – Two storey addition to rear.*

*Mrs Betty Lloyd – **Tondu Farm, 52 Park Terrace, Tondu** – Fell two trees in rear arden.*

*Paul Cox Skips – **Plot 80, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle** – Change of use from storage yard to a waste transfer station.*

*Miss Kyra Blair – **30 Tremains Court, Brackla** – Single storey side extension.*

*Maesteg Celtic RFC – **Garth Park, Bridgend Road, Maesteg** – Relax condition of P/10/871/FUL to retain container for a further five years.*

'We must make sure that future generations remember Holocaust'

Teachers and pupils from Brynteg with Coun Gary Thomas and Ms Kay Jenkins.

Bridgend College performing arts tutor Martyn Hearne and singers Jac Yarrow and Ellie Barham, with Coun Gary Thomas and Ms Kay Jenkins.

BRIDGEND County Borough Council has again held an emotional commemorative service at its council chamber to honour those affected by the Holocaust and genocide.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is recognised on January 27 every year, and 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20th anniversary of the Bosnian genocide.

BCBC's annual Holocaust Memorial Day event aims to commemorate victims, honour survivors and commit to tackling prejudice, discrimination and racism in the present day.

This year, Bridgend Youth Theatre students Phoebe Lewis and Jack Davies compered the event, and Bridgend College performing arts students Jac Yarrow and Ellie Barham provided solo singing performances.

Pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive School recited a poem they had written especially for HMD, and moving videos of survivors were shown to guests.

Invited guests who attended the ceremony included First Minister and Bridgend Assembly Member Carwyn Jones, Ogmore AM Janice Gregory, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon and Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies, with other guests representing a wide cross-section of the community, including police, religious and community groups, schools, charities and campaigners.

As part of the ceremony, the traditional 'Seven Statements of Commitment' were read by prominent members of the community.

Brynteg pupils, representing the younger community, read: "We must make sure that future generations understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect upon its consequences. We vow to remember the victims of Nazi persecution and of all genocide."

Candles of remembrance were lit by Bridgend county Mayor Coun Gary Thomas and a 20-second silence was held to remember all those lost in the Holocaust and in Bosnia, as well as the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Darfur.

The Nazi Holocaust between 1941 and 1945, claimed the lives of six million Jews, who were killed by Hitler's army in mass-shootings, concentration camps and extermination camps.

BCBC Leader, Coun Mel Nott, said: "Every year we feel it is important to keep the memory alive of those who were affected by the Holocaust and other acts of genocide.

"This year is particularly important as it marks the seventieth anniversary of the Holocaust, as well as the 20th anniversary of the Bosnian genocide.

"We will continue to honour the survivors of those horrific times, and remember those who lost their lives," he vowed.

For more information about the Holocaust visit www.hmd.org.uk, or to view Bridgend County Borough's HMD page featuring poems, memoirs and links visit www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Peter Pan flies in Blaengarw Workmen's Hall!

PETER PAN is at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall this week in a production by the Blaengarw Pantomime Group, until tomorrow (January 30).

The hall was re-opened to the public by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in September 2014 and now welcomes in a range of community groups who host monthly tea dances, as well as weekly arts and crafts and mother and toddler groups.

The Blaengarw Workmen's Hall building comprises of meeting rooms, a dance studio, an arts and crafts workshop, and the auditorium, which can be used for multiple purposes such as theatrical performances, cinema, cabaret and tea dances.

Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "Blaengarw Workmen's Hall is an impressive building and an important part of the heritage of the Garw Valley.

"We are already hosting a number of groups and organisations in the hall and this year we hope to develop that even further.

Tickets for Peter Pan are available from Bryn stores, Blaengarw, or directly from Blaengarw Pantomime group, who can be contacted on 07858 725910.

Midwives' breastfeeding campaign

MIDWIVES across Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot are launching a campaign to promote breast feeding called 'Your Baby's First Gift'.

The idea came from midwife Leanne Thomas, who works in the Flying Start area of Bettws, Bridgend.

Leanne said: "We know a newborn's immune system is not nearly as good as an adult's or even an older child's. We also know breast milk is full of good antibodies and antibacterial properties.

"For the baby, breast milk reduces the risk of chest infections and tummy upset.

"By breast feeding the mum also gains health benefits as it reduces the risk of breast and ovarian cancer."

A week of activities is planned for the this week (January 26-30; pregnant and new mums welcome.

On Friday, January 30, Flying Start Bridgend "Where it all began" Bettws pod, Bettws Primary School, Heol Bradford, Bettws, Bridgend, CF32 8TG. Leanne Thomas and local breastfeeding group will be on hand to answer questions from 10am-12pm.

ABOVE: David Richards receiving his 25-year service award.

LEFT: John Pearman receives his 25-year award.

PORTHCAWL CHOIR GIVES A WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS

PORTHCAWL Male choir recently held an open evening for men who had an interest in male voice singing, but who knew little about it, to come along and learn what was involved in becoming a chorister.

Chairman Roy Bowen welcomed the visitors and emphasised that no one was required to have a particularly good voice to be a chorister, nor was he required to have the ability to read music.

A choir is composed of four voice parts, first and second tenor and first and second bass, and these parts reflect the range of the chorister's voice.

New members are given every opportunity to find the section which suits best, and may change sections at any time if they find their initial choice to be unsuitable.

The musical director, Mair Jones, took the choir through a number of scale exercises, which gave the guests an opportunity to identify their individual range. This was followed by the choir singing a number of pieces which illustrated the roles of the various parts.

Following the break, two long-serving choristers, John Pearman and David Richards MBE, were each presented with a certificate and clock in recognition of their 25 years' service. Both are well-known figures in the town.

John Pearman is president of Porthcawl Rugby Club and has served it in a number of capacities over the years.

Dave Richards has served as a town councillor and mayor, and is currently chairman of the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion. He also holds the MBE awarded during his police service.

Both addressed the choir, saying how proud they were to receive such recognition doing something that gave them so much pleasure.

They emphasised the camaraderie which existed in the choir and the pleasure experienced in singing with other choirs, in venues such as the Albert Hall and other venues in this country, Europe and even the USA. **RW**

Clarice celebrates her 100th birthday

Clarice and friends.

A PORTHCAWL lady recently celebrated her 100th birthday at the RMBI Albert Edward home.

Rebecca Timms of the RMBI sent the following report.

"Clarice Bevan is a lady who you would wish to have in your own family. I am lucky to say that she has been a part of my life for the last six years, and over these years Clarice has always been someone you could rely on for a friendly smile, chat, or cuddle.

"Clarice's claim to fame is that at 100 she still has all her own teeth!

"Clarice's birthday was especially well attended by her family and friends, as well as residents and staff here at RMBI Albert Edward. Porthcawl mayor Sean Aspey brought a lovely bouquet of flowers for Clarice on behalf of the town council. Also in attendance was Martyn Wake, the secretary of the friends of the court, who presented Clarice with gift vouchers from the association.

"Clarice had a card from the Queen and thoroughly enjoyed her big day – she even attended a music for health exercise class in the morning before her party.

She also received cards from the Welsh Office, Ian Duncan-Smith and First Minister Carwyn Jones AM.

"Everyone enjoyed strawberries and champagne. A big thank you goes to James Bevan, Clarice's son, for providing the champagne for us all to enjoy on this special occasion.

"Colin Williams, our pianist, changed his weekly slot to be here for Clarice's big day. She is a regular at his musical memories session and he played all her favourite songs.

"Faye Anthony from Fancies and Flowers outdid herself with a magnificent '100' cake."

Clarice with the Porthcawl Mayor, Coun Sean Aspey.

Jamie to lead 'Mair's Walk'

OLYMPIC medallist Jamie Baulch will be leading the ninth Mair's Walk this June for Velindre Cancer Centre's Stepping Stones Appeal, supporting lung cancer research.

The popular three-mile sponsored walk will take place on Sunday, June 7 from Bridgend Recreation Centre to Ogmore Castle via the Stepping Stones.

The walk has raised over £180,000 over the past eight years.

Jamie said: "I feel honoured and privileged to support the 2015 Mair's Walk. Mair's Walk has quickly become an institution; a fantastic day out that everyone will enjoy, while raising much needed funds for a truly worthwhile cause. I know, first hand, the effects lung cancer can have on patients and their loved ones. The money raised will allow the Velindre Stepping Stones Appeal to continue to fund local cutting edge research into the treatment of this awful disease."

Walk organiser Mair ap Gruffydd said: "I am so lucky to still be here today and put it down to the lung cancer research that has been done before and will continue to be done. We never think about it until we need it. In time we may be able to have the cure with all our help – let's hope."

Registration will take place at Bridgend Recreation Centre from 9am and the walk starts at 11am. Fancy dress is optional and there will be a prize for best outfit.

Entry is £10 per adult, children under 16 are free, and each participant is asked to raise sponsorship. Enter by May 1 to receive a Mair's Walk T-shirt.

Enter online at: www.velindrefundraising.com/bookonline.

Writer launches his new novel

SUSTAINABLE WALES in Porthcawl has announced that its next 'Green Room' event will feature Porthcawl writer Tom Anderson's first novel, *The Actaeon Tide*, published by Parthian.

Tom is known for his accounts of surfing around the world, described in volumes such as *Chasing Dean* and *Riding the Magic Carpet*.

Local author Robert Minhinnick said: "*The Actaeon Tide* is Tom's first novel and marks an ambitious step forward in his writing.

"It brings together Tom's interests in surfing and the health of our oceans with his experience of working for a detective agency.

"This Green Room event on Friday, January 30 at 8pm at SUSSED, 5 James Street, Porthcawl, serves as the first local launch of *The Actaeon Tide*. Tom Anderson lives in Porthcawl and is an English teacher in Cardiff."

The event will be followed by questions, opportunities to buy the book and open mic readings.

Entrance £3. For more information, contact Sustainable Wales 01656 783962; www.sustainablewales.org.uk.

Porthcawl Bridge news

PORTHCAWL Bridge Club intends to start a series of seminars on various bridge topics.

The intention is to encourage average players to develop new techniques by way of popular conventions. The talks will be held in Awel-y-Mor on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 6.10pm prompt.

Visitors are most welcome to attend the talk and to play bridge afterwards if they wish.

The first topic on February 5 will be 'Five-card stayman – responses to 2NT'.

Recent results:

Saturday, January 10. First – Liam Sheridan and Tony Haworth; second – Trish Saunders and Janet Richards.

Monday, January 12. First – Terry Dolan and Roger Plant; second – Janet Richards and Dil Evans.

Thursday, January 15. First – Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; second – Gary Williams and Pat Haworth.

Saturday, January 17. First – Hazel and Colin Heard; second – Janet Richards and Trish Saunders.

Monday, January 19. First – Betty Longley and Sue Anthony; second – Terry Dolan and Roger Plant.

Thursday, January 22. First – Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second – John Cobby and Pat Roper.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor Centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm-10.15pm. Visitors are welcome at any time. To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794. **TH**

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First Minister recalls his schooldays in a frank forum with sixth formers

Carwyn Jones with headteacher Mr Slade.

ON Friday, January 23, Sixth Form students at Porthcawl Comprehensive School welcomed First Minister and Bridgend Assembly Member, Carwyn Jones, to school.

It was his first visit to Porthcawl Comprehensive since he was a 12-year-old schoolboy playing rugby for Bryntegi. On that occasion, he returned home disappointed after a long undefeated spell came to a crushing end, and still remembers it well!

This time, however, his visit ended on a much more positive note, sharing lunch and conversation with the school's head team after a lively and informative question and answer session with 200 Sixth Form students.

The AM opened proceedings by explaining to students the role of the Welsh Assembly and specifically his role within it as First Minister and as an Assembly Member for their constituency, before taking questions from the floor.

Students enjoyed challenging the AM on topics such as NHS funding in Wales, the future of the Welsh language, the housing shortage, university student finance in Wales, the new literacy and numeracy curriculum changes, as well as the impact of the Welsh Baccalaureate and the issue of it being recognised nationally and internationally.

Over lunch with pupils, the First Minister spoke to them all individually, asking what their plans were for the future, and was generous with his encouragement and advice.

Pupils particularly enjoyed the frank and honest discussion, and Alisha John, assistant head Girg, remarked that the AM "…answered us like he was talking to adults and didn't dumb down his answers."

Head girl Rebecca Manley commented that she had found Mr Jones "down to earth and unassuming", and felt that he had "answered our questions openly."

Madeleine Dabernig, assistant head girl, said that the pupils had benefited from having the role of the Welsh Assembly explained more fully to them and she particularly noticed that the AM "admitted when things were wrong and didn't sugar coat things."

AM Carwyn Jones commented: "It was a great opportunity to meet the sixth form students at Porthcawl Comprehensive and hear about the issues young people are concerned with in my constituency.

"I was pleased to see that many students at the school are interested in politics, asking questions on a broad range of topics."

Rather fittingly, the AM was accompanied on his visit by Megan David, a past pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School, who having left in 2009, graduated from Cardiff University and is now a research and public engagement officer at the Assembly.

This was an inspiration to all the budding politicians among the pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed their day.

NICOLA EVANS

LIB-DEMS' DUO TO FIGHT OGMORE AND BRIDGEND

WELSH Liberal Democrats have selected two local candidates to represent them in the Bridgend and Ogmore constituencies in May's general election.

Anita Davies.

Gerald Francis.

Anita Davies, the party's candidate in Bridgend, lives in the town with her husband and two children. She is originally from Llangeinor and is a member of Coity Higher Community Council and a school governor at Litchard Primary.

She stood for the party in the Pendre Bridgend County Borough Council by-election in 2010 and in the ward again in 2012, and also in the Bryncethin by-election in 2014.

Anita is partially sighted and attended the blind school at Ysgol Pen-y-bont, the further education college for the blind in Hereford and took a degree in rehabilitation studies at University Central England, Birmingham.

She currently works for Cardiff Institute for the Blind as a locality development manager in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

She sits on the countryside access forum, the children's disability strategy group, volunteers with Face to Face, a befriending service for parents who have children with disabilities, and is chair of Litchard Primary School PTA and of Making a Difference, an organisation set up to empower women.

Gerald Francis, the party's candidate in Ogmore, has been married to Olive for 43 years and has four daughters and six grandchildren. Three attend a Welsh medium school in Cardiff.

He is a former Liberal Democrats county and district councillor in Hertfordshire, but has lived in Gilfach Goch for the last six years. His father is originally from Maesteg.

He currently teaches plumbing and key skills in Cardiff and stood for the Lib-Dems in Ogmore in 2011 and for the Gilfach Goch ward on Rhondda Cynon Taf Council in 2012.

He was chair of the Green Valley Action Group fighting wind farms around Gilfach Goch.

He is also a founder member of an anti-bullying group, No More Bullying, based in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Follow us on Twitter @gem_news

Communities First

BRIDGEND Communities First will help you add to your life by adapting to a more healthier lifestyle on February 6, from 10am to 2pm at Bridgend Life Centre (formerly Bridgend Recreation Centre).

Enjoy free health checks, free complementary therapies, yoga, Pilates and T'ai Chi, free healthy cooking demos, armchair exercises or golf and walking, football and tag rugby sessions. Stalls include Macmillan Cancer Support, Stroke Association, Diabetes UK Cymru, Alzheimer's Society, Mental Health Matters Wales and Nest. Live entertainment will be provided by the Tenovus Mixed Choir.

For further details, call 01656 643514 or email communitiesfirst@bridgend.gov.uk.

How 1940s house was transformed into a paragon of eco-efficiency

by TIM CHAPMAN

A MAN who lives in Penarth has carried out an 'energy efficient upgrade' to a detached house, built in the 1940s, and believes his yearly energy bills could end up as low as £500.

Nigel relaxing in his Penarth eco-home.

Nigel Humphrey, an architectural designer, said that prior to the upgrade the house was hopelessly inefficient.

It was being heated with an ageing gas boiler and old radiators. Pipes that ran between the living area and the attic were lagged with old newspapers dating back to 1975!

The aluminium double glazed windows installed decades earlier were leaky and prone to condensation. There were also air bricks everywhere, open to the cavity which had no insulation.

Nigel explained: "The renovation took 10 months and we've now moved in.

"The total energy cost for the house is on track to meet the planned £500 for the year with zero carbon emissions.

"Heating the place before must have cost a fortune and produced huge clouds of CO2."

He explained that a crucial factor in efficient heating of a house is to cut down on drafts. The volume of air in a house can change from between five and 10 times an hour – and it all has to be reheated.

Nigel's renovation and improvement works have cut down the change in volume of air to between a volume of half and two an hour.

"We decided to replace all external doors and windows with well-sealed triple-glazed units, to insulate the cavity walls and attic, install an air source heat pump, solar PV panels, and panel wall heating in the existing house.

"Under-floor heating was installed in the extension. The new extension was built with super-insulated timber walls, and roof lights positioned to collect heat and energy from the sun as well as providing high levels of daylight to the centre of the house.

"Next, we needed to gain as much free (solar) and renewable energy as possible, from the PV panels on the roof, and through the windows, rooflights and the conservatory."

Nigel got grants for work to the cavity walls and attic. He also installed an 'air source heat pump' which takes heat from the air and boosts it to a higher temperature.

"Not only do we get the 'Feed In Tariff' of 14p/kWh, estimated to be earn about £250 a year, we also get payments from the 'renewable heat incentive' for the air source heat pump.

"The renewable energy costs therefore for all space and water heating, lighting, appliances, and cooking are about £500 for the year. Because all the energy used is from renewable sources the CO2 production is zero."

The long overdue renovation of the house cost approximately £38,500, but it is now 'eco-fit' for decades to come.

Last week, *Casualty* was being filmed at Nigel's house. The storyline? Someone getting carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas boiler. Something of an irony since Nigel has disconnected the gas!

Nigel is happy to discuss his project with people who are interested: tel: 02920 709565; or go to www.mas.eu.com.

PACT meetings

SARN / Bryncoch PACT, February 2, in Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

YNYSAWDRE CUPPA WITH A COPPER February 4 at Ynysawdre Community Hall, 2pm – 4pm.

BRYNCETHIN PACT on February 4 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

PYLE PACT on February 5 at Cefn Cribwr Rugby Club at 6.30pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT on February 11 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

YNYSAWDRE PACT on February 11 at Ynysawdre Community Hall at 6.30pm.

MAESTEG EAST / WEST PACT on February 16 at Cwm Calon Day Centre at 6pm.

BETTWS PACT on February 19 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

BLAENGARW/PONTYCYMER PACT on February 20 at Pontycymer Boys' and Girls' Club at 6.30pm.

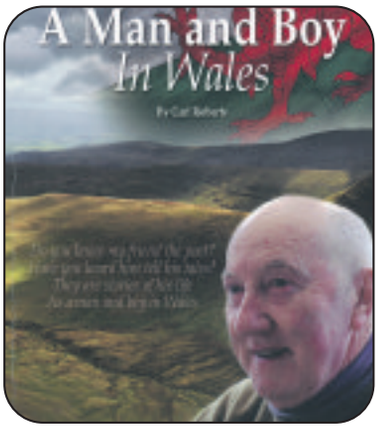
CAERAU PACT on February 23 at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

Company's wind farm contract

A BRIDGEND-based specialist in ground testing services has celebrated a contract to supply Vattenfall's Pen y Cymoedd Wind Energy Project.

Founded in 1992, Apex Testing Solutions employs 65 people, and general manager Thomas Martin said: "It's a phenomenal contract for us, in particular for the testing lab, as it equates to about 85 per cent of the lab's work for the whole year".

Carl evokes memories of a Welsh past with a volume of poems...



A former carpenter has published his own book of poems celebrating Welsh life and culture over more than half a century.

by GEM REPORTER

Carl Roberts, aged 71, who has lived in Pontyclun since 1968, grew up in Pontypridd.

He explained: "I've loved poetry since I was a boy – in school I was top in English and poor in maths.

"My poems reflect growing up in south Wales and aspects of Welsh life."

Carl's verse evokes memories of childhood, family connections and evens travels further afield.

In the 1970s, he played with a band called 'Lock, Stock and Barrel' specialising in musical comedy. With another band, he performed in front of 2,000 GIs in Frankfurt just before they were due to leave for Vietnam.

Professionally, he worked as a carpenter and for 10 years was employed by a maintenance company at Parc Prison.

From 1975-85, he and his wife Valerie owned the fruit and veg shot in Pontyclun. All these experiences have been distilled into a volume *'A Man and Boy in Wales'*.

If people are interested in purchasing a copy (£6) they can contact Carl on 01443 237695; there are also copies available in Pencil Case, Eastgate, Cowbridge, too.

Carl said: "One of my favourite poems is 'Closing Down. It makes my wife cry because her father was a miner."

CLOSING DOWN

He came out of the shower
And slammed his locker door
They wouldn't see old Charlie
In the lamp room any more
And fifty-three just like him
Didn't like the news a bit
The notice on the wall said
They're closing down the pit

His heavy boots redundant
His torn cap needed mending
This didn't really matter now
His final shift was ending
He touched the blue scar on his head
Where once the flesh had split
And read the notice on the wall
They're closing down the pit

He read the names in silence
He'd known each one from birth
Side by side they'd toiled
Inside the bowels of the earth
He felt the valley dying
His anger made him spit
Old Charlie's on the scrap heap now
They're closing down the pit

ABOVE: As a young man, Carl (left) played with a band called 'Lock, Stock and Barrel.'

Town council ward vacancy

THERE is currently a vacancy for a member to be co-opted onto Bridgend Town Council and applications are invited from any resident of Bridgend Town Council or close proximity (within three miles).

Further information from the Town Clerk, Bridgend Town Council, Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend, CF31 1EF.

For further details, telephone 01656815757; e-mail:bridgend.tc@bridgend.gov.uk. All written applications to be received by noon on February 13.

Girls get preview of science career

ON January 22, girls from Dr Jones' year-8 science class at Brynteg School, Bridgend, visited Aberthaw power station in the Vale for a 'Girls into Science' event organised by STEM Cymru.

Pupils had a guided tour around the site where they were shown the various stages involved in generating electricity for two million households.

They also visited the ACE2 education and community centre and took part in a racing car speed challenge competing against girls from other schools in the local area.

Pupils learnt about energy transfers, resources, sustainability, the environment and opportunities for girls interested in pursuing careers in science, technology and engineering.

Samantha B
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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bryncethin WI

PRESIDENT Debi Thomas opened the meeting on January 15, and treasurer Alvys Jones introduced the speaker; Jackie Williams of Welsh Women Walking, who spoke of her charity work and walking up Kilimanjaro.

Jackie was an inspiration and Bryncethin WI thoroughly enjoyed her talk and presentation. Debi Thomas presented a bouquet of flowers to thank her for donating her time, free of charge, to Bryncethin WI.

Secretary Jen Davies read the minutes of the meeting on December 18 and read from the Glamorgan Federation newsletter, describing various forthcoming events.

Members Hazel and Margaret received birthday cards and Debi informed members of a change of secretary from Trisha Longmire to Jen Davies. Trisha was thanked for her time as secretary. Debi then informed members of various events that are being organised by Bryncethin WI.

Assistant secretary Sarah Webb and vice-chair Lesley Russell informed members of the design and progress being made with regard to the Bryncethin WI banner and shield.

Assistant secretary Elaine Christian then spoke to members regarding fundraising possibilities.

The members voted on the National Federation of Women's Institutes Resolutions. A total of 25 votes were counted after a show of hands. Bryncethin WI's resolution choice was Resolution 4:Failing to Care – assessment of need in long-term care, carried with a majority of 18 votes.

Bryncethin WI meet on the third Thursday of each month from 6.45pm – 9pm in Bryncethin Memorial Hall, opposite Bryncethin Primary School on the A4063.

The next meeting will be on February 19. The speaker will be Dave Thomas, head of forensic science. For further information email: *Bryncethin.wi@gmail.com* or telephone secretary Jen on 07938746890.

Deanna's talk

THE public is invited to a presentation by Deana Owen on projects being carried out by the charity Friends of Monze – at the Dunraven Room adjacent to St Mary's Church, Nolton, Bridgend, CF31 3NH on February 4 at 7pm.

Deana is a retired health visitor from Bridgend who volunteered to help people in Zambia during the HIV/Aids crisis.

Based in the town of Monze, she formed the charity Friends of Monze.

Monze is located in southern Zambia and is home to around 19,000 people. The HIV/AIDS epidemic left one million children orphaned and many elderly people without family care.

Learning values

STAFF at Tynyrheol Primary school, Llangeinor have been discussing the importance of 'values' with the children from the beginning of term.

Three weeks ago, headteacher Kerry Jones suggested 'friendship' as the value for the week and certificates have been presented to the pupils who best displayed this value consistently throughout the week.

The winners were:

Class 1 – Ruby Thomas; Class 2 – Logan Cinderby; Class 3 – Tygan Crocker.

Chosen by the children the following week was 'teamwork', and certificates were also presented. Winners were:

Class 1 – Sophie Jones, for playing literacy games well with her classmates.

Class 2 – Levi McCormick, for working with classmates on number bonds to 10.

Class 3 – Tyler Williams, for ensuring that each member of his team had a job when carrying out scientific research.

The next cross-country race in the Bridgend inter-schools competition will be held next Saturday, January 31, at Pencoed Comprehensive.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Tai Chi

RESIDENTS in the Maesteg area may be interested to know that a new Tai Chi class is starting at Llangynwyd Community Centre on Tuesdays from 10am.

This is a self-healing system of slow, graceful exercises that combine movement, meditation and rhythmic breathing.

For more information, call 07851 008367.

Languages

CEFN CRIBWR Life Centre is offering Spanish or French classes, ideal for beginners on Fridays (Spanish 10am – 12pm; French 12.30pm – 2.30pm).

For more information contact WEA Cymru on 02920 382431 or Email: Kim.Vidal@weacymru.org.uk.

Singing contest

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir organises the Welsh singer of the year competition in conjunction with Bridgend CBC, to foster young talent and is sponsored by Dunraven Windows.

The heats were held on January 17 with a record number of entries.

The adjudicators, Beverley Humphreys, Alun Hodges, Suzanne Hodges and Brian Payne had the unenviable task of trying to choose the section winners.

In the 11 – 14 years of age section, Matthew Daly (Bryntirion Comprehensive School), Tessa Castenera-Webber (St Clare's school, Newton), Layla Millar (Porthcawl Comprehensive school) and reserve Elys Davies (Porthcawl Comprehensive school) will take part in the finals.

In the 15 – 18 section, Lucy Vinen (Porthcawl Comprehensive school), Lauren Coates (Bryntirion Comprehensive school) Anwen Angharad Dixon (Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd) will be in the finals.

In the 19 – 26 section, Andrew Henley (tenor), Lukasz Karauda (baritone), Angharad Lyddon (mezzo), Huw David Montague Rendall (baritone), Eirlys Myfanwy Davies (mezzo), reserve Charlotte Trepess (soprano) go forward.

The finals will take place in Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday March 28 at 7pm and Rebecca Evans, Welsh opera star, will be one of the adjudicators.

Flower arrangement at Aberavon Hotel.

WI celebration

ON January 19, 11 ladies from Aberkenfig & District WI joined members of Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes at the Aberavon Beach Hotel in Aberavon for a centenary lunch and floral demonstration. This was given by Daphne Furneaux, a long serving WI member and farmer's wife, who is also a very gifted flower arranger.

She gave a short history of the WI, which began in Stoney Creek, Canada, followed quickly by the first Institute in the UK opening in Llanfair PG in 1915; by 2016 40 WIs had been formed. There are now 200,000 WI members and it is the largest voluntary organisation in the UK.

Daphne went on to build her arrangements, using a large selection of flowers and foliage.

Daphne and her daughter Louise achieved a silver gilt medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. She found this quite challenging as they had to arrive at 9pm and finish by 6am the following morning.

Visitors and new members are sure of a warm welcome at Aberkenfig WI which meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Len Evans Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. More details from Dilys on 01656 725399, or at www.cobwebs.com.

40th concert

COR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) is holding its 40th annual concert at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, January 31 at 7pm. Musical director Rhian Jenkins, with the assistance of pianist Ryan Wood, will conduct the choir. Compère for the evening is BBC presenter Beverley Humphreys and guest artists are Cantare.

Hospital benefit

TO commemorate the centenary of the opening of Maesteg Community Hospital, the Maesteg League of Friends are organising a concert at Maesteg Town Hall on Friday, February 28. Proceeds will go towards a special plaque to commemorate the contributions made by the miners of the area, who paid a small amount out of their wages every week, and this enabled the hospital to be built 100 years ago.

Tickets £7 can be obtained from Linda, on 01656 735988.

Lifeboat rescues up by 8 per cent

RNLI training at Porthcawl.

STATISTICS reveal that 1,244 people were rescued by Welsh RNLI lifeboats in 2014, the highest number since 2006, and showed an eight per cent increase on the previous year.

Volunteer crews at Porthcawl experienced their busiest ever year, with 73 launches – making them the busiest RNLI lifeboat station in Wales.

Compared with 49 launches in 2013, the volunteer crew have seen a massive (49 per cent) increase in lifeboat launches, with the number of people rescued also doubling.

RNLI lifeguards in Wales had another busy summer in 2014, responding to 1,261 incidents and assisting 1,376 people.

Nicola Davies, RNLI community incident reduction manager, said: "We are definitely seeing more people out and about visiting the beautiful Welsh coastline, whether to walk the coastal paths or take part in more adventurous activities.

"Our message to the public has always been to visit the coast as a group, rather than go it alone. It seems our advice is hitting home.

"Whilst previously people may have chosen to take part in activities alone, they are now thinking twice and considering how going to the coast as a group is far safer.

"Consequently, more people were rescued than ever before.

"Instead of attempting to bring themselves to safety, people are recognising the need to dial 999 much quicker and as a result our volunteer crews have been exceptionally busy."

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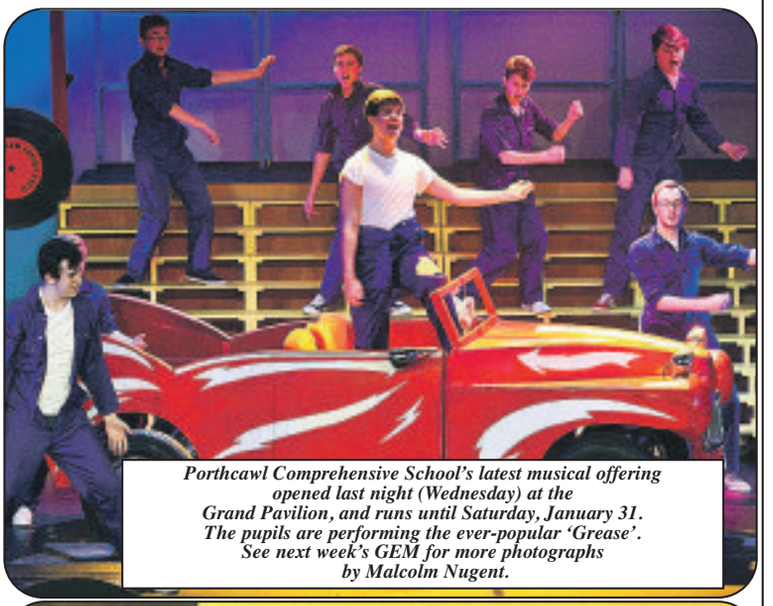

Porthcawl Comprehensive School's latest musical offering opened last night (Wednesday) at the Grand Pavilion, and runs until Saturday, January 31. The pupils are performing the ever-popular 'Grease'. See next week's GEM for more photographs by Malcolm Nugent.

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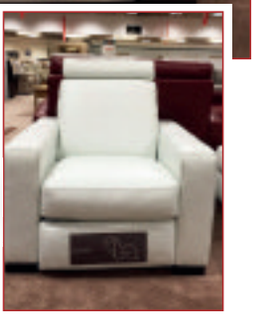

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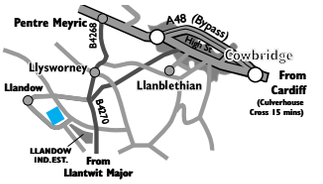

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Businesses fear losses

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

However, the two businesses – the Fox and Hounds pub, and the Mace shop and Post Office – will lose their passing trade and are extremely worried about the consequences.

Mark Lewis, of the Fox and Hounds, told The GEM: "I think all country pubs have had a difficult time over the last seven years or so, but we have traded through that and things are definitely on the up.

"However, this road closure will be a huge blow."

Sam Smith runs the Mace shop and Post Office with her business partner Louis Holden. It was only recently that the Welsh Government provided a grant so that they could offer post office services to the village.

She said: "So much of our business comes from passing trade, especially as the weather improves and people come down to walk along the coast or use the beach."

She added that the post office alone could not sustain the business, and that made the passing trade very important.

Mark Lewis said: "We were shocked when we went to a public consultation event to find that Network Rail seemed to be under the impression that no businesses would be affected.

"The only response we received was that there was no legal duty on the company to offer any compensation."

The two traders agreed that the work was unavoidable, and fully accept that many people and businesses would be inconvenienced by the diversion, which is approximately six miles.

However, they insist that they are in a different position because of the loss of passing trade. A £2 million project, they feel, should include an element of compensation for businesses that could be lost to the community because of five months of difficult trading conditions.

However, when The GEM contacted Network Rail to ask about compensation, the response was not encouraging, although a spokesperson said that unforeseen queries would be "followed up".

A Network Rail spokesperson said: "St Brides Road Bridge is coming to the end of its life and, therefore, needs to be replaced. We are working closely with the Vale Council to build a better bridge with improved traffic flow.

"We have carefully planned this work to be completed in the safest and most efficient way. We apologise for any inconvenience caused while this essential work is being carried out.

"To communicate this work with local residents and advertise our drop-in session, we engaged with St Brides and Ewenny community councils, put up posters around the villages and issued a press release and adverts for local media.

"Drop-in sessions give residents a chance to find out about our plans and give them an opportunity to raise any concerns they have.

"Any queries that we cannot deal with at these sessions are followed up afterwards."

MAN WAS KNOCKED OUT BY ONE PUNCH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Williams was identified, and was arrested while driving in North Cornelly.

The prosecution said that he told the police he was acting in self-defence, because he felt threatened.

Mr Niblett said in an impact statement that he was now a frightened man and was always nervous.

"I'm always thinking I could be attacked again."

He said that it had affected his family holidays at the caravan.

"I am honest, I've never been in trouble, and I don't know why I was attacked. It will affect me for the rest of my life."

Williams was said in court to have convictions for 32 offences, including possessing an offensive weapon, assault, drug offences, affray, arson, wounding with intent, battery and causing actual bodily harm.

His counsel, Owen Williams said: "There are deeply unpleasant features in this case and his record causes the courts great concern".

He said he realised when sober and off drugs that his behaviour was deplorable.

"He apologises to the victim and realises he is a risk to the public".

The judge said Mr Niblett could have suffered permanent, serious damage.

He added: "The attack was fuelled by cocaine and alcohol."

Shoplifting campaign help to cuts thefts

A CAMPAIGN to tackle shoplifting in Bridgend county and the Vale of Glamorgan in the run up to Christmas, saw a reduction in thefts at Maesteg and Barry, police report.

The campaign saw police officers making additional patrols in key areas, with officers working with shop staff to try to reduce the number of offences and detect more crimes.

Neighbourhood policing teams in Maesteg and Barry carried out operations to combat shoplifting during the period December 1 through to January 12 and were supported by community safety partnership PCSOs to increase high visibility patrols on the streets and within shops and stores.

Police Sergeant Rob Lewis from Maesteg Police Station said: "The overall result for Maesteg was a 70 per cent reduction in shoplifting from last year. This was achieved through a high-profile presence, targeting known offenders and regular liaison with store staff.".

During the campaign in Barry 26 people were arrested, 15 of whom were charged with theft while three people have already received fixed penalties or youth restorative disposals.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Emily takes her Vale seat in parliament!

Pictured are members of UK Youth Parliament from Wales – Emily Peters (Vale), Katherine Davies (Swansea), and Ted Simonds (Conwy) with Dr Hywel Francis MP and Lord Aberdare.

ON Thursday, January 22, the UK Parliament hosted a special event in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the parliament called by Simon De Montfort, which met from January to mid-March 1265.

Forty members from both Houses of Parliament, representing the whole of the UK, as well as their respective representatives from the UK Youth Parliament, were present.

They included Emily Peters, from the Vale of Glamorgan.

The de Montfort parliament was the first time that representatives of both towns and shires were summoned simultaneously to discuss matters of national concern, something which ultimately paved the way for the emergence of the House of Commons.

The towns and counties were once again summoned to Westminster Abbey Chapter House, where they met together for the first time since the de Montfort parliament met on January 20, 1265.

Politicians go head-to-head at Arms Park

THE National Assembly's rugby team will take on the House of Common and Lords at Cardiff Arms Park at 2pm on February 6, just hours before the England-Wales match.

The teams will contest the 9th annual fixture to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK, with Assembly Rugby seeking their fourth consecutive win over their rivals.

Assembly Rugby will be represented by Leader of the Opposition, Andrew RT Davies AM, and the Ynys Mon AM, Rhun Ap Iorwerth.

The Commons and Lords, meanwhile, will include Secretary of State for Wales, Stephen Crabb, the Vale of Glamorgan MP, Alun Cairns, and the Rhondda MP, Chris Bryant.

Assembly Rugby chairman, Andrew RT Davies AM, said the game was about promoting good causes and urged members of the public to go along and support the "real" Wales team.

"Over the years, the team has raised more than £10,000 for Bowel Cancer UK and I am proud to be involved.

The annual fixture against the Commons and Lords is always the most anticipated, but ultimately it is about promoting good causes and raising awareness of the work that Bowel Cancer UK do.

"The Assembly team was set up in 2006 by Glyn Davies, who was an AM at the time.

"Glyn overcame bowel cancer and wanted to raise awareness of the illness and personally demonstrate how survivors could go on to lead a full and active life after being so ill. I think that's a message we can all support," he said.

"On behalf of Assembly Rugby I would also like to thank Cardiff Blues for making the stadium available to us.

" I hope that we can deliver the people of Wales the first of two great victories over England on the day!"

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We said goodbye to Archie on Monday, March 25, but our support for Brad, Lauren and Jack didn't stop there. To find out more, watch our video at www.tyhafan.org/leaveagift.

Archie has left his mark on all of us at Tŷ Hafan in so many ways. You can also leave your mark right here in Wales.

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Out and About with The GEM

J.C. Chandor's Most Violent Year falls just short of greatness...

THE writer and director JC Chandor made a name for himself with his excellent debut feature *Margin Call,* and then by taking screen icon Robert Redford and plonking him on a boat, adrift and with no dialogue, in the terse *All Is Lost*.

With two successes under his belt, hopes and expectations are high for his third feature, *A Most Violent Year.*

Set in New York city in 1981, it tells the story of Abel Morales (Oscar Isaac), a businessman determined to do things the right way to create an empire and provide for his wife Anna (Jessica Chastain) and their children.

However, Abel's expansion plans are caught up in an outbreak of violence and danger and, despite his noblest intentions, he may have to play dirty to make his dreams come true...

JC Chandor's two previous films have directly or indirectly referenced the 1970s films that placed conscience and narrative weight above all else; *Margin Call* was a cautionary tale of excess and the impact it has on those both at the centre of the maelstrom and those who rely on those at the centre of it, while *All Is Lost's* casting of Robert Redford was a nod, knowing or otherwise, towards the driven, charismatic characters the actor played in that decade, and then stripping away the layers in a tale of man versus the elements.

A Most Violent Year similarly wears its debt to that decade; even though it's set in 1981, the aftertaste of the 1970s is felt throughout. The stereotype of the 1980s that many films use as a calling card (greed and avarice predominant) are here but in a much rawer form.

This is a story of a man battling against those elements, ostensibly trying to fight the good fight but finding himself drawn into shady dealings and battling against being forced to make the compromises that will leave him no better than his rivals.

Chandor's script is tight and dense; this is a film that takes its time to tell its story, allowing for the nuances of the characters to form, the weight of events to really take hold. Some have labelled this Chandor's *Godfather*, and though there are some vague similarities present (innocent forced onto the shady side of the tracks to help himself and his family), it doesn't cut that close.

Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain offer restrained and powerful performances; he is a good man but weak, trying to do what is best but always seems half a step in the wrong direction, while she is quietly powerful, a Lady Macbeth figure who is the real power behind the throne.

Their relationship is well drawn and convinces, and the pair's performances are wonderful to boot, with Isaac (to further push a *Godfather* comparison) channeling a young Al Pacino in his ability to hold the screen.

While there are wonderful turns around the lead pair from the likes of Albert Brookes and David Oyelowo, the most engaging supporting turn comes from Elyes Gabel as a delivery driver who is attacked; his subplot is superbly realised, and hits the emotional notes that are lacking elsewhere.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

That is one thing that does feel like a shortcoming of the film; even though the stakes are high, there is little emotional engagement. You want Abel to succeed but you don't feel the pull, Chandor keeping you at arm's length, while as the film slowly winds towards the climax, save for a moment of real tension, Abel's problems never escalate to something palpable – when you think Chandor may pull the rug from under you, it stays exactly where it is.

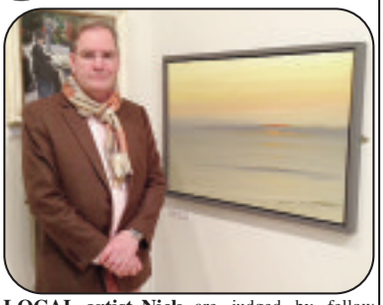
These faults aside, *A Most Violent Year* has plenty of pedigree and quality behind it; the performances and script are rich and satisfying, the direction muted and gritty. If Chandor had pulled it all together at the end it would have been a most excellent film – as it is, it's a most engaging one, falling just short of greatness.

VERDICT: Another successful effort from writer/director JC Chandor, who shows ambition in this sprawling work, *A Most Violent Year* is well-made and sees wonderful work from Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain. A slightly fudged conclusion tempers the praise, but this is still an engaging work. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Yards* (2000), *Summer of Sam* (1999).

See more reviews and news at hindsightfilmsblog.blogspot.co.uk.

Local artist goes national!



LOCAL artist Nick John Rees (*above*) has again been successful in having his submission for The Royal Cambrian Academy of Arts 2015 annual open exhibition accepted.

Each year, artists are invited to submit work for consideration by the academy, which is the longest surviving artist-led organisation in Wales. All submissions are judged by fellow professional artists.

The exhibition opened on January 10 and is a mix of the best contemporary fine art in Wales. Nick's work was featured in S4C's TV programme *Heno* which was screened to coincide with the opening event.

Based in Sully, he regularly exhibits locally and further afield and in recent years has seen his paintings added to both private and public collections all over the world.

☛☛DON'T MISS THE...
BARRY Nr. Cardiff TOY & TRAIN SALE
SUNDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 2015
10.30am - 3.00pm
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Admission £1.95 - Child/OAP £1.50
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Website: chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

What's on, and where in your area...

Wargamers' event

PENARTH & District Wargamers are holding 'Crusade 2015' on Saturday, January 31.

The event will be held at Cogan Leisure Centre, Andrews Road, Penarth (CF64 2NS).

Traders, demonstration, participation games, displays, bring and buy, refreshments, free parking and charity raffle supporting BLESMA.

Doors open at 10am, adults £4 and concessions/children £1. Contact Ian Richards, *email: crusade@penarthwargames.co.uk; www.penarthwargames.co.uk*.

Rummage sale

A RUMMAGE sale will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, January 31 from 10am until 11.30am. Entry 50p (to include tea/coffee). Plenty of bargains for all. All proceeds to charity.

Valeways guided walks

ON February 1, Valeways will guide a walk to Dr Salmon's Wells at 2.30pm; meet at Penllyn Castle opposite entrance (SS 973760). On Tuesday, February 3, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi meet at Coffee Cove Cafe, Barry Island at 10am.

On Wednesday, February 4, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth at 10.30am.

Toy and train sale

BARRY Toy and Train sale will take place on February 1, 10.30am to 3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry attracts a great range of traders from both sides of the Severn Bridge and a wonderful array of stock is always available from all the big names such as Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Tri-ang, Hornby, Lima, Wrenn, Bachmann, etc.

"In the current economic climate, prices have never been keener and it is an ideal time to build up collections at budget prices."

Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Free tax advice

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will offer free advice to older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial house, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB, on February 2 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321, or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Volunteer sessions

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) will be at the Let's Garw office on the High Street in Pontycymer on the first Tuesday of every month, starting February 3 from 10am – 12.30pm) to give details of volunteering opportunities.

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400, or visit www.bavo.org.uk.

Putting Families First

PARENTS, grandparents and carers in Barry who look after children aged 0 – 11 years, are invited to attend a free coffee and cake information session in Barry to find out more about a local community programme aimed at families.

Run in partnership with the Vale council-led Putting Families First and Barry Communities First, it will provide opportunities to take part in courses to support a child's learning. There are also a range of activities on offer, such as relaxation, jewellery making and coping with stress.

This free session will take place at The People Centre, 3 Dunlin Court near Thompson Street on February 4 (1pm – 3pm).

For more information, telephone 01446 709432, or visit www.BarryCommunities.

Luncheon club

A Barry Communities First Luncheon Club takes place on the first Wednesday of every month for those aged 55 and over on February 4 (12pm – 2pm), at Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way, Barry.

For £2.85, they will receive a two-course meal and bingo with prizes.

Contact 01446 709432 or www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Harry Potter book night

ON February 5, the first ever Harry Potter Book Night will be celebrated worldwide, and Penarth Library and Griffin Books will be co-hosting a special evening of wizarding activities for children (suggested age range 7 – 12) at the library from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

Young wizards, witches and muggles will be treated to an evening of games, activities, readings and quizzes including a Harry Potter fancy dress competition, readings from 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone', face painting and glitter tattoos, wand making and a fiendish Harry Potter Trivia Challenge.

Tickets for the event are free and available in advance from *Griffin Books (tel 02920 706455) and Penarth Library (02920 708438)*.

Art society

ON Thursday, February 5, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Claire Smith from the National Museum of Wales who will give an illustrated talk on the lives and work of Augustus and Gwen John.

These are usually very informative and interesting occasions, accompanied by a powerpoint presentation.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm). Visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

History lecture

COWBRIDGE History Society's next lecture on Friday, February 6, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, is 'Pentyrch and the Garth: a light hearted local history study,' by Don Llewellyn. All are welcome!

Scout jumble

THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout jumble sale takes place at 1.30pm on Saturday, February 7, at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

Candlelit concert

SUNDAY, February 8, will see this year's candlelit concert at St Donat's Church by singers and musicians from Atlantic College.

It begins at 4pm and a varied programme will be offered. Tickets £5, on sale at Nickleby's bookshop in Llantwit Major and on the door. The annual event will raise funds for the upkeep of the 11th century church.

Shadows Club

FEBRUARY 10, Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (02920 309979), South Wales Shadows Club, 8pm. All are welcome.

Charity coffee

AT All Saints' Church Hall, Porthcawl, on February 20 at 10.30am, there will be a coffee morning to support Cancer Research.

Tickets are available from Diane Jones on 01656 784762, or at the door; stalls and raffle.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D863.

The Rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

• **£2,000**: 1630.

•**10**: 195323, 571670, 413996, 452181, 645560, 564521, 229042, 278724, 349255, 839524, 794122, 672739, 647671, 320175, 463944, 627089, 704910, 351806, 287513, 254462.

•**5**: 771528, 570018, 509682, 226218, 687888, 930392, 751729, 685318, 693780, 704722, 655852, 311181, 504036, 823636, 901084, 665189, 181672, 319750, 964987, 463088, 546722, 558409, 596451, 861574, 780464, 334130, 787622, 104997, 127953, 194793, 423017, 718614, 792732, 788774, 838916, 393648, 705249, 731462, 556759, 235374, 126013, 266030, 608115, 280362, 256984, 244408, 741501, 764890, 621258, 864997, 260464, 852293, 682537, 615899, 649567, 338543, 674, 462, 4, 1773.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

So sad council voluntary merger is rejected

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I WOULD like to begin by wishing everyone a belated happy new year. I would dearly like to wish everyone a prosperous new year, but it is abundantly clear that austerity will remain and the financial issues facing central, regional and local government will continue.

Last month, I indicated it would be good to review what has happened in the Vale of Glamorgan Council during our term in office and I had intended to dedicate this and further columns to those issues and review what has happened in the council.

However, when writing my last column the cabinet had agreed the submission of an expression of interest in merging with Bridgend Council on a voluntary basis in line with a request from Welsh Government.

Since then a meeting of full council ratified that decision, the expression of interest was submitted and we have been waiting for a decision by Welsh Government on those proposals, which we had hoped would have been on January 5.

On Tuesday (January 27) I received a telephone call from the Minister informing me that our submission was unsuccessful.

I was told the reason for this is because it was not compliant with the requirements put forward by the Williams Commission, which based a merger of authorities on health footprints contained within the 'Map'.

If there are no further changes to the 'Map' by Welsh Government in the future, the recommendations of the Williams Commission to merge the Vale Council with Cardiff Council will be Welsh Government's way forward.

I have always made perfectly clear my opposition to the recommendation of the Williams Commission to merge the Vale Council with Cardiff Council. I stand by that opposition. I am still convinced the recommendations are flawed and have no option but to continue to take the same stance, despite this rejection.

The interests of our residents have been of primary concern to me throughout this process and this is why I am deeply saddened by the decision. In light of today's announcement, we will be considering what options are now available to the Vale of Glamorgan and how the needs of our residents can be best met.

We now await further developments from Welsh Government, as and when they are released, particularly if another White Paper is likely to be issued next week.

Bearing in mind Welsh Government's decision, this council will not be deterred in continuing our programme of work to benefit the people we represent. I had promised to review what we would be doing and I will do so from next month onward, but in the meantime, I will mention below some examples.

SCHOOLS INVESTMENT

We will be continuing our school investment programme and will shortly be reporting on the consultation we have had in relation to the secondary education provision in Barry.

This follows on from the successes at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, the Penarth Learning Community, and our decision to create a new Learning Community in Llantwit Major.

We have recently reopened the Eastern promenade at Barry Island. The work to regenerate the prom has been a great success and we have been astounded by the very positive reaction received. In the next few weeks and months we will be continuing improvements to the rest of the promenade and gardens, and we will start work on the Western Shelter area too.

We were also very pleased with the 'Weekenders' events on the Island last summer and I am delighted to confirm that the 'Isle of Fire' event has been shortlisted in the 'Best Small Event' category at the Wales Tourism awards.

The winner will be announced in March, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned for creating these very positive, popular and amazing weekends.

While mentioning events, I cannot fail to also refer to the Christmas lights switch-on and the fact that it went viral on social media. Was this Wales' best Christmas lights switch-on? – I think it possibly was; so once again, a very big thank you to the organising team and the backup from our other staff who, as always, make sure that the event spaces are cleared after these events take place.

We have also continued success in partnership with private sector partners. Work is continuing with the second road to the island through the Housing Consortium and work has begun on the redevelopment of the Pumphouse, again on the Waterfront.

I am very pleased that we can see the signs of our determination to make things come to fruition. On that front I am also pleased that at last we have made progress on the funfair site on the Island and I am looking forward to working with these new private sector partners to revive this long awaited beachfront site.

As I indicated earlier, this is just a quick review of some of the areas where we are succeeding and I will continue this theme when I present the next column and also address any issues that arise in the meantime.

I will just finish by confirming my determination, that while the Vale of Glamorgan Council is here, we will endeavour to do the right thing for all our citizens, despite any distractions that come our way.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Funding level *is* unfair to Wales'

YOUR letters correspondent on the Barnett formula for Government funding for Wales ('Wales does well out of the Barnett formula', The GEM, January 15) either doesn't understand the basis of the formula, or has chosen to ignore it for political reasons.

The Barnett formula is a complicated calculation, taking into account the needs of different areas of the UK – and Wales has a history of heavy industry, poor health and disadvantage to take into account – as well as demands from difficult geography and areas of dispersed population.

It is grossly simplistic to say that Wales gets more per head than England, and so Wales isn't underfunded.

Wales needs more Government funding per head than England (as a whole) but the current formula still doesn't provide a funding level commensurate with the needs.

Even the author of the Barnett formula himself argued that the formula is unfair to Wales and should be revised.

I think your correspondent is ".. wilfully … misleading ..." your readers and not the Welsh Government as s/he claims.

John Drysdale,
Peterston super Ely.

'Don't isolate social housing'

I FEARr that Mr C Short (The GEM, January 22) has now become a NIMBBY (Not In My Barry Back Yard) and would prefer that all the rich people move into Redrow's new £1/2 million houses in Colwinston – dumping them where there are no shops, no public transport, narrow and unpaved lanes, regular flooding, and sewage overflows.

With the Vale Conservatives in cahoots with Labour by agreeing to build on every field between Barry and Bridgend, why do we need our ineffectual planning department?

Scrapping it would save millions, then cancel the draft gobbledegook LDP and simply re-date the 'existing' UDP, which is ignored anyway.

But none of this addresses the real need for more social and affordable housing in the Vale – these homes need access to public transport, employment and shops.

Surely they must be situated in and around the major settlements, not in small and isolated rural villages?

As for us all drinking Pimms No.1, I have already requested that our pub landlord gets in a few more barrels of the stuff, to quench the thirst of our new and rich arrivals.

Finally, the last Communist in the village was burnt on Bonfire Night some years ago!

Mr T Morgan,
Colwinston.

'Make Cardiff a hub airport'

I SEE that, quite rightly, people have been writing letters to The GEM with ideas about the future development use of Cardiff Airport, since it seems to have stagnated since being in public ownership.

I would like to add a suggestion:

In my view, Rhoose is an ideal location for a 'hub' airport where passengers land to catch connecting flights but do not leave the airport.

There is currently much opposition to the construction of another runway for this purpose at Heathrow, due to its location in a heavily-populated area.

We already have an ideal runway here, which is barely used, and where the approach and departure directions are either over the sea or over countryside, so the disturbance from aircraft would be minimal compared to Heathrow.

The revenue in landing fees which a busy hub airport would bring to us, as the public owners of the airport, would be enormous.

In addition, the local employment provided by serving the needs of the aircraft and passengers whilst passing through the airport would also be huge.

There would also be the benefit of being able to avoid the expense of any great improvement in road and rail infrastructure to the airport – since there would be no significant increase in the number of passenger movements to and from the airport.

From the airlines' point of view, it doesn't matter where a hub airport is located so why not develop one at Rhoose as an alternative to Heathrow?

T Cox,
Barry.

'WE SHOULD ALL FIGHT INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT'

I WOULD like to point out to Paul Jeremy (GEM letters, January 22) that the people of Barry also love the beauty of the rural Vale. We are also suffering from the lack of an up-to-date LDP.

The rush of planning applications by developers and land owners hoping to make a quick buck is worrying for us all.

We have recently suffered the loss of a large chunk of ancient woodland at Pencoedtre, and have also seen White Farm turned into yet another bland housing estate.

The land that is now under attack is Green Farm and Walters Farm (also land at Brynhill).

These areas are not urban – the land at Walters Farm has one of the largest areas of neutral meadow grassland left in Wales. It is considered to be of national importance. It is also home and breeding ground to many bird species on the endangered list.

It has roosting and maternity sites of endangered bat species – which are supposed to be protected by European law – but we shall see!

The ancient woodland is a site of special scientific interest.

The interest shown in upgrading Five Mile Lane is, in my view, suspect.

Development at Weycock Cross, plus an upgrade, will impact heavily on the villages of Bonvilston, St Nicholas and Peterston, as the traffic trying to escape the rush hour mayhem will be encouraged to take this direction.

The enormous developments on the Waterfront, with another 2,000 homes planned, ease pressure on the Vale's housing needs, but are causing increasing problems for the residents of Barry as the traffic increases. The protesters in Barry are a polite bunch who have avoided the dirty tactics of nominating greenfield sites in other areas and have offered support to other communities.

We are fighting for the rural Vale – it's the bit where the countryside meets the town.

We are all united in our curiosity about Llandow and I feel we would be better served pushing for answers on this.

The possibility of a new and exciting development there would solve a lot of problems.

Instead of political point-scoring, a bit less 'not in my back yard' attitude could possibly get better results.

We should all be fighting against inappropriate development in the Vale, with a gentle reminder that Barry is also part of it.

Sue Eldridge,
Barry.

Dismay over planning applications

I HAVE read recently, with considerable dismay, a number of planning applications which have been submitted to the Vale Council, pertaining to towns and villages around the Vale.

In addition to the 390 houses planned for the enlarged plot at Darren Farm, there were 124 residences in Wick, 40 in Ystradowen and 10 in Llanmaes – just in The GEM of January 15 – and more had been published previously in Barry and Colwinston.

Also last week, there was an application for a link road between the A48 and the Llantwit Major road.

While such a road would be helpful in easing the traffic to come through Cowbridge, when heading for Llantwit Major or the Llandough estate, the route chosen is somewhat worrying.

It comes close to an historic church building, and to the village of Llysworney. Where a link road is built, houses are sure to follow!

Farming is the largest industry in the Vale of Glamorgan, and with all this building, our green fields will disappear forever, and the Vale will no longer be an agricultural area.

Do we really want this?

I understand that Welsh Government policy was to minimise the taking of farming land and to avoid the creation of an urban sprawl. How can our schools be expected to cope with the great influx of extra pupils?

And how will Cowbridge cope with so much extra traffic at peak periods – not to mention the parking problems we already have – in a small town which has lost its police station, its Post Office and most of its bus services?

If all this development goes through, the character of the Vale will be changed completely, to the detriment of us all.

Mrs L H Thomas,
Cowbridge.

What price principles?

THE view expressed in The GEM on January 22 by Paul Jeremy of Vale Villages Together is the classic NIMBY attitude.

We need much more housing in the Vale of Glamorgan, fact! Virtually all development in the past has been centred around the existing towns in the Vale.

Any development in the villages always involves building one or two exclusive properties, that enhance the village scene, and are only targeting the well-off middle class. It is totally evident from all the objections raised by the opponents of village development that their only motive is selfish – money driven, self interest.

This out-dated attitude that all development should be centred on Barry smacks of elitism and shows the campaign in its true colours, "I've got what I want, so let's pull up the drawbridge."

We all enjoy the benefits of the countryside, but if you check your local Ordinance Survey map, I don't think the rural Vale runs the risk of being turned into a concrete jungle for several millennia yet.

What happens to all these village children when they grow up and need housing, and there is none affordable in their own local environment ?

Garry Tippins,
Barry.

Bus company chief replies

I WRITE in reply to the comment in last week's GEM readers' letters section, concerning my company's 303/304 service.

Having checked our on-bus tracker system I can confirm there is a slight problem with late running on this service – on average, the bus has been less than four minutes late over the last seven days.

We are making a number of further improvements to the route over the coming weeks, which will come into effect in the spring that will include adding additional running time on this section of route to improve reliability. In the meantime, I have asked our bus operation team to monitor the journey on a daily basis and check if any short term improvements can be made.

Although we like our bus service to arrive on time, I fail to see how a bus service that operates on average four minutes late can be described as "shockingly poor" – especially at this time of year when driving conditions are generally poor, due to the weather.

Kevyn Jones, Cardiff,
Managing Director,
New Adventure Travel.

Extra housing will cause 'utter gridlock' in town

THE proposal for 390 houses to be built on Darren Farm to the north west of Cowbridge and the addition of over 1,000 people, will have a significant impact on the town

The benefit of the proposed link road to existing residents will be minimal, we have the A48 bypass.

Large numbers of people from the development will travel into Cowbridge to use its facilities. Surely this will be the reason most people will move there?

With the distance it is from the town centre, I cannot see many people walking.

The traffic problem will be exceptionally acute at peak times, rush hour, Saturdays and school start and finish.

Many more cars will travel through the town to the comprehensive school (it is already rather difficult to get through the town from 3pm). There will be utter gridlock at the traffic lights from the extra residents.

These important transport considerations need to be looked at systematically as part of all the planning for the Vale, and such a significant development would be best placed in a settlement with rail links.

This is a huge greenfield site. There is a significant impact on the wider special landscape area and the harm to the character of the immediate area would be substantial.

I am a 38-year-old who loves the environment, loves walking, and enjoys the wildlife and landscape around Cowbridge.

I live with my parents and whilst I fully appreciate the need for affordable housing, please, please do not build over our fields; once they are gone we won't get them back.

Mr JA Hailes,
Cowbridge.

New homes are crucial to the local economy

I WOULD like to comment on the current debate about the proposed housing development at Darren Farm, just outside Cowbridge.

Is everyone in Cowbridge a NIMBY?

It appears that if you can afford a house here, then you don't want any other houses on your doorstep.

The simple fact is that we are living longer and keeping our houses – the only way children can stay in Cowbridge and contribute to its economy is if new homes are built.

New homes should go near shops and services – it is far more logical to build them close to Cowbridge than scattering them in the Vale's villages.

I hope the Vale Villages Together pressure group will support this application as it seems like a good solution – a school and a new road are being provided with the homes.

That seems to me to be a good idea.

Mr J. Lewis
Llantwit Major

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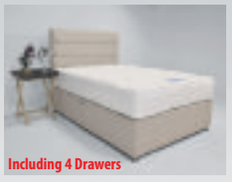

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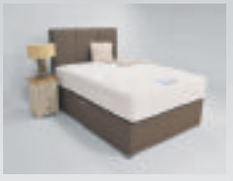

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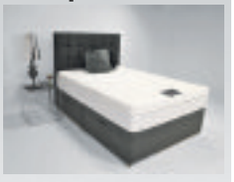

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No merger for Vale and Bridgend as council plan is now back to square one!

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE proposed merger between the Vale Council and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is dead in the water after the Welsh Government rejected the plan.

Two other prospective 'happy couples' – Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent, and also Conwy and Denbighshire – were also told to call off their 'civil partnerships'.

The Welsh Government statement was short on detail, with Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Public Services, saying: "I am not persuaded that any one of these expressions of interest sufficiently meets the criteria for moving ahead to prepare a full voluntary merger proposal".

He went on to say that the proposals had to prove themselves better that "our full preferred map (Williams Option 1)".

That option sees Bridgend join with Neath Port Talbot, and the Vale merge with Cardiff.

Mr Andrews added another reservation, saying: "We also needed to have confidence that authorities would be able to develop comprehensive merger proposals by June 30, 2015".

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, said: "The interests of our residents have been our primary concern and this is why I am deeply saddened by the decision of Welsh Government.

"In light of today's announcement, we will be considering what options are now left available to the Vale and how the needs of our residents can be best met."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "This is a real egg on face moment for the Vale Council and Welsh Government. The local authority was encouraged to agree with a merger with Bridgend, and did so enthusiastically.

"The Welsh Government has now thrown it back, and from the outside it looks shambolic. I had always considered it odd to have had the prospect of decisions affecting the Vale being made from as far away as the Ogmore and Garw valleys – it makes no sense.

"What is of great concern is the cost of all this. I have written to the Welsh Government to determine how much money has been wasted on walking the local authorities up the hill, only to then march them down again. It is chaos."

For BCBC, Council Leader Mel Nott OBE said: "This is extremely disappointing news. We felt that we had put forward a strong argument for exploring a potential merger with the Vale area, and believed that such a move would have delivered the most benefits and advantages for the people of Bridgend county borough.

"We are already developing partnerships with the Vale Council, and held that a merger to the east would have enabled us to contribute to and benefit economically from the development of the Cardiff Capital Region, as well as maintaining momentum in educational improvements and ensuring geographical alignment with many other public services in the area.

"However, we must reluctantly accept the decision of the minister, consider our options in light of the announcement and look towards the Welsh Government for further guidance over the future of local government in Wales."

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said the Welsh Government's plans were now "in disarray".

He said: "This decision is good news for residents of the Vale, but the proposal was deeply flawed from the start.

"I remain deeply concerned that local authorities have been forced to consider inappropriate options because of the significant threat of financial penalties for those who refused.

"It is vital that we get clarity from the Welsh Government on the next steps for local authorities. Equally important though, it is high time that we had a proper discussion about the shape of local government in the future.

"To date, no one has outlined what services will be delivered under the new structure or indeed what role, if any, will be played by town and community councillors."

Welsh NHS in firing line after Monday cancellations

by PHILIP IRWIN

ARGUMENTS over the state of the NHS in Wales flared up again this week after Cardiff and Vale health board cancelled all non-urgent outpatient appointments in the University Hospital of Wales and Llandough Hospital on Monday (January 26).

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives said: "I have been contacted by several patients from Cardiff and the Vale who have arrived for appointments this morning, with no notice that they had been cancelled.

"It's totally unacceptable and demonstrates the pressure that health boards are under because of Welsh Labour's failure to plan properly for the winter period".

Alice Casey, the chief operating officer at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "Due to extreme pressures on our services, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has taken a number of extraordinary measures today in order to safely manage patient care.

"All available staff are being directed to help manage this situation. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to cancel and rearrange a number of elective and outpatient activities.

"Non-urgent outpatient appointments at the University Hospital of Wales and University Hospital Llandough are cancelled today, with the exception of cardiac, dermatology, haematology, mental health clinics, ophthalmology, dental, children's clinics, thoracic and fracture clinics.

"Those patients receiving care on a day-care basis in haematology, rheumatology, children's, cardiac and neurology will continue as planned".

Mr Davies said: "For local residents who rely on these hospitals for their treatment, these cancellations will be extremely concerning and it's high time for the Welsh Labour Government to admit that there is a crisis in the Welsh NHS".

Speaking later in the day, Alice Casey added: "We would like to thank all members of the public in bearing with us today after the decision to cancel and rearrange a number of elective and outpatient activities.

"This decision was made due to the number of patients, presenting as emergencies with complex needs requiring a high level of care. Therefore, our priority has been to look after these people.

"Demand on our services remains extremely high but we are able to confirm that all appointments for the rest of the week will continue as planned.

"If anyone is unsure about their situation we encourage them to contact us on 02920 748181 for help."

WIs celebrate!

THE National Federation of Women's Institutes is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and the Glamorgan Federation started their celebrations in style last week by holding two lunches at The Aberavon Beach Hotel, Port Talbot when 380 members from 38 WIs attended.

They were treated to a demonstration of floral art from Mrs Daphne Furneaux from Llanddewi with Knelston WI in Gower.

Daphne is an NFWI tutor for floristry and flower arranging and a judge. At last year's Chelsea Flower Show she gained a silver gilt medal. All who attended the lunch are looking forward to the rest of the year's festivities. These will include a commemorative service at Llandaff Cathedral and fashion shows in Swansea. **JE**

VALE of GLAMORGAN

BRO MORGANNWG

LABC CYMRU

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Building Excellence Awards 2015

CRITERIA REQUIRED:

- **Compliance with Building Regulations and energy efficiency**
- **Supplying and managing information (giving of notices and information relative to the work)**
- **Speed of fault rectification**
- **Site environment, safety and storage of materials (so as not to be detrimental to their use)**
- **Client/customer satisfaction**
- **Sustainable and technical Innovation.**
- **Access for people with special adaptations**
- **Small Domestic, Housing and Commercial projects**

BUILDERS and developers who use the building regulation service of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, will be attending the 12th Building Excellence Awards dinner, organised through the council's Building Control Group at The Vale Resort Golf Club, Hensol on Friday, January 30.

Nominations for the awards are made by the council's Building Control surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to completion of the work.

Coun Fred Johnson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, stated:

"This is the twelfth successive year of the Building Awards, and I have great pleasure in giving recognition to builders and developers who are determined to provide a high-quality, customer-orientated service.

"The nominations go to show, yet again, that there are several excellent examples of high-quality construction projects that have been undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan.

"Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with current building regulations requires a very high standard of workmanship, and the builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this requirement.

"I hope we continue to build upon the success, when our nominations represent Wales and go forward to The National Awards, in London, as a finalist."

KEY ROLE

Marcus Goldsworthy, Operational Manager for the Development and Building Control Group, commented:

"Building Regulations have a key role whenever you decide to make alterations, extend or construct new buildings. With recent changes to the planning process and devolution of Building Regulations to the Welsh Assembly, reducing carbon emissions and improving performance and energy efficiency is at the front of the development process.

"Everyone has a part to play in conserving energy and reducing carbon emission – whether we are homeowners seeking to extend our homes, or developers taking forward a major new scheme.

"Changing the way we construct buildings to make them more sustainable, will be a big challenge for all involved in the industry".

The Development and Building Control Group falls within the council's development services department, and its Head of Service, Rob Thomas, stated:

"Development of any size has a major impact on the day-to-day lives of persons who are undertaking building projects. Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying, not only the customer's needs, but also of meeting the terms of the legislation.

"The Building Awards will provide all those involved with well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard".

THANKS

The council would also like to thank all the sponsors of this event, without whom it would not be possible to recognise the builders and developers whose quality of work is making a positive difference to the environment of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sponsors are: Nina Estate Agents from Barry, ACD Skip & Recycling from Bridgend, The Vale Resort, Hensol, Greenbuild Consult, Durisol, Jewsons, and The Glamorgan GEM.

Winners of the Vale of Glamorgan event will go forward to the LABC South Wales Building Awards dinner which will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Spa Resort, Hensol, on April 17. Host is Owen Money, the vocalist is Dave Bowen, and it will help to raise funds for Cancer Research.

The ultimate achievement is recognised at national level. Winners of the All Wales event will be nominated for the LABC National Building Awards, which will include nominations from most of the local authorities throughout Wales and England in London next November.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO BUNGALOW

Address:
ROXBURGH LODGE, 12A PLYMOUTH ROAD, PENARTH

Agent: **1010 Architects**

Contractor: **Phil Harris**

The existing bungalow was a single storey, monopitched ranch-style property in the local conservation area.

The architect and builder have created a timber-framed extension to provide bedrooms and bathrooms on the first floor.

The renovation also included a make-over of the ground floor accommodation, to create space more usable for modern living.

The completed scheme has resulted in a modern house with a contemporary feel.

The external facades have been clad with a combination of zinc and cedar cladding.

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DEMOLITION AND RE -CONSTRUCTION OF GARAGE, FORMATION OF NEW EXTERNAL DOOR/WINDOW OPENING TO EXISTING DWELLING AND MINOR WORKS

Address: **93 PLYMOUTH ROAD, PENARTH**

Agent/Contractor: **Logic CPS Ltd** working with **Chris Loyn Architects**

The proposal was to modify and extend an existing period dwelling, using modern materials – such as large panel glazing.

The existing side and rear elevations at ground floor level have been removed, with the first floor supported on a structural steel frame with steel piers. An additional glass walled and glass roofed annexe has been added, to give the rear of the building a very light and airy feel.

The glazing systems used are of high quality, ensuring an outstanding thermal performance.

The rear garage has been transformed with opaque glazing to the garden elevation, which can be changed at the press of a button.

LOFT EXTENSION inc. ALTERATIONS TO FRONT & REAR DORMER, BALCONY, PORCH AND EXTENSION AT REAR

Address:
21 ROBINSWOOD CLOSE, PENARTH

Agent: **AD Hoc Designs Ltd**

Contractor: **AD Hoc Designs & Building Ltd**

The proposal is to extend an existing 1960s-style bungalow by the addition of first floor dormers to the front and rear, and a side extension.

This has opened up the interior to provide a large, rear kitchen living space leading to the hallway, which features a floating white-treaded, bespoke staircase and glass balustrades.

The finished project has enhanced the existing features and added a very modern, open plan 'feel' to the building.

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EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS

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Address:
8, LLANDAFF CLOSE, PENARTH
Agent: **1010 Architects**
Contractor: **S. J. Builders**

The proposal was to extend an existing 1960s-style bungalow and realise its full potential. The extension consists of a new study, utility and garden room.

The first floor has an additional en-suite bathroom. The remainder of the layout has been remodelled to give the building an open feel, with improved views of the rear enclosed garden.

The builder has kept in contact with Building Control throughout the scheme, which has been necessary with the need to underpin part of the existing garage that had inadequate foundations.

The building has been finished to a high standard, giving the owners a remodelled property with a modern twist.

TWO STOREY EXTENSION

Address:
ADERYN, NURSTON
Agent/ Contractor:
Mr. Mike Guthrie

This is a visually impressive, two-storey extension to a rural property. It comprises a spacious, open plan roof structure, supported by a glulam ridge beam and a first floor balcony.

In addition to the extension works, the contractor implemented flood protection measures, and re-used the existing stonework of the demolished extension to create a bespoke-style boundary wall.

Fulfilling the conditions of the planning approval, also resulted in the contractor having to undertake substantial temporary support work for the existing roof structure. This was followed by the construction of a complex roof design.

The contractor demonstrated a clear ability to overcome these issues and has produced a build of exceptional quality.

Mike Guthrie
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EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO ROOF SPACE

Address:
ST MICHAELS, DYFFRYN, ST NICHOLAS
Applicant:
The National Trust
Agent/Contractor:
Martin Davies, Nathan Goss, Peter Bricknell

The site is on the Dyffryn Gardens Estate: the two-storey stone building has been used as an estate office for a number of years.

The proposal was to add another office at first floor level over the existing stairway. Due to the nature of the site, and its close proximity to the main Dyffryn House, it was decided to install feature elevations and a pinnacle roof.

The builder, who specialises in conservation schemes, has produced an outstanding addition, to create an unusual building to modern requirements

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

CONVERSION CATEGORY

BARN CONVERSION INTO HOLIDAY LETS

Address: **HIGHLIGHT FARM, HIGHLIGHT LANE, BARRY**

Applicant/Contractor: **Mr Chris Lakin**

Agent: **Steve Sidford c/o**

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PENSEIRI SIARTREDIG

EPT Partnership, Cardiff

THIS nomination follows the conversion of an historic barn into two self-catering holiday accommodation cottages.

The project involved reclaiming stone and timber from the site, and reducing the overall carbon footprint, while maintaining the rustic feel of the cottages.

Both cottages were insulated to a standard which was over and above the energy efficiency required by building regulations.

The cottages also benefit from underfloor heating and dedicated bike storage facilities.

Stunning views of the Dyffyrn Valley are provided by the inclusion of aluminium-framed bi-folding doors, providing access to cantilevered steel frame balconies.

CONVERSION OF STABLES AND EXTENSIONS

Address: **WILLOW COTTAGE, TREOES**

Applicant/Contractor: **Mr Colin Anstee**

Agent: **Christopher Williams Design Services**

This scheme involved the conversion of an existing stable block, together with a single and two-storey extension, to create a new dwelling.

Built of cavity wall construction, the entire building has been clad with local reclaimed stone and brick quoins to produce a property of such character and detail.

Internal accommodation includes four bedrooms with en-suite bathroom to the main bedroom, large open plan family room, and kitchen.

An ornate stone staircase complements the remainder of the detailed build. The owner/builder maintained good contact with Building Control throughout the project, to produce a quality building.

NEW INDIVIDUAL DWELLING

NEW DWELLING

Address: **TY COCH FARM DROPE LANE, ST BRIDES SUPER ELY**

Agent: **Richard Whitaker**

Contractor: **Lee Ford**

The scheme consists of a new three -storey house on an infill plot in the village of St. Brides Super Ely.

The property includes lounge/ dining area, family room, games room, gymnasium and pool, five bedrooms at first floor level.

It has an open aspect created by the large hallway and feature staircase.

During the build, an additional conversion of the second floor was discussed and agreed with the onsite BCO and through good liaison, a suitable solution was concluded. This is a well-constructed property of a very high standard.

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NEW DWELLINGS

NEW INDIVIDUAL DWELLING

Address: **AFRYN HOUSE, COWBRIDGE**

Agent: **1010 Architects**

Contractor: **WRW**

This new dwelling, submitted in full plans format, was to replace a sub-standard bungalow previously situated on the site. Severe planning restrictions regarding the ridge height of the new dwelling, necessitated significant ground works and mass excavations to formation level.

The timber-framed building incorporates an independent 'granny annexe' set to the one side of an impressive entrance hallway. It includes all accommodation expected of such a unique dwelling.

It is heated via a bio-mass boiler with underfloor heating, and is finished to an extremely high standard. This is a dwelling of much substance and well worthy of the nomination.

NEW DWELLINGS

Address:
TURKEY STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Applicant/Contractor:
Kent Property Services

Agent: **Chris Edwards c/o Evolution**

This site was formerly occupied by a local service station/ garage with associated forecourt and petrol pumps.

Prior to construction, the underground petrol storage tanks were removed and soil analysis tests carried out, to ensure that the ground was not contaminated. Construction then proceeded with the two new individual dwellings, and the conversion of an existing property, suitably extended to produce a third dwelling. Site constraints provided the developer with many logistical problems, which were overcome, to produce three quality dwellings.

The developer ensured health and safety aspects were complied with, and kept in constant contact with building control at all stages of construction.

NEW DWELLINGS

Address: **SCHOLARS VIEW, TOWNMILL ROAD, COWBRIDGE**

Applicant/Agent/Contractor:
Taylor Wimpey South Wales

This project involved the demolition of the lower school buildings to Cowbridge Comprehensive School and the erection of 21 new residential homes, with six being of low-cost, affordable units.

The site constraints created many logistical problems for the construction team, but with consideration and co-operation of local residents being paramount, the site was completed with minimal disruption.

The contractors maintained contact with Building Control throughout all stages of construction, and ensured constant compliance with their health and safety regime, to produce a development of an extremely high standard.

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NEW DWELLINGS

4 NO. 2 BEDROOM DWELLINGS

Address: **OLD FARM MEWS, DINAS POWYS**
Agent: **Hoole & Walmsley Architects**
Contractor: **Brickflair**

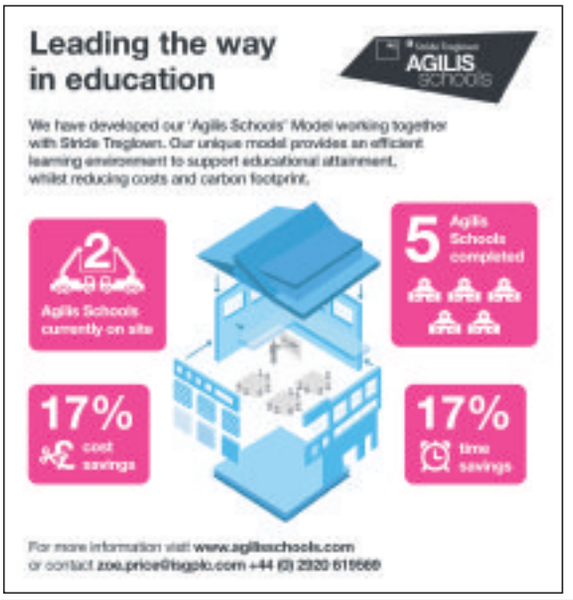
The split-level houses erected on a derelict site in the centre of the village of Dinas Powys. were initially built for the architect and her family.

Consequently, the standard is extremely high, as there has been continuous site supervision by the architect, building control, and LABC warranty inspectors.

The resultant properties are both modern in their design, and mirror the colours and material of the existing buildings in the village.

NEW EDUCATION BUILDING

NEW SCHOOL



Address:
YSGOL NANT TALWG, BARRY
Applicant: **Vale of Glamorgan**
Agent: **Stride Treglown**
Contractor: **ISG**

This new school building has been tailored to meet the needs of its users, as well as achieving high standards of thermal efficiency and fire safety.

It has been designed to meet the requirement in Wales for BREEAM – with 'excellent' EPC 'A' rating – and constructed to achieve a 40% improvement on current Building Control minimum insulation u-values.

In addition, the model school building has been provided with an efficient M&E design, photovoltaic roof panels and a full sprinkler fire protection system.

From the beginning, the contractor delivered a high standard of site safety and established an integrated partnership on health and safety with the campus headmaster and staff.

A meaningful bilingual traffic management plan that improved the existing systems, was implemented within the site, HSQE audits were carried out on a weekly basis and the contractor actively participated in site safety discussions with pupils and staff.

Throughout the scheme, the contractor demonstrated a highly professional and competent approach and has delivered a first rate project that is a worthy inclusion in this year's nominations.

NEW SCHOOL AND RESPITE UNIT

Address: **PENARTH LEARNING CENTRE, ST CYRES ROAD, PENARTH**
Applicant: **Vale of Glamorgan**
Agent: **HLM Architects**

Contractor: **Leadbitter Bouygues**

The proposal is to provide a new super school for the Vale of Glamorgan, which comprises a mainstream building and SEN school linked at levels 2 and 3. Each school operates independently from one another, creating a state of the art comprehensive.

The mainstream school is a three-storey building (level 1- 3). It comprises teaching classrooms, sports hall, main hall, offices, reception, plant, storage kitchen, IT server rooms and WCs.

The SEN school is a two-storey building (level 2-3) and has similar facilities to the mainstream unit – but all-purpose built for the use of special educational needs students.

There is also a two-storey Respite accommodation building on site, to provide facilities for both students and carers.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

LABC SITE SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognises a specific person, rather than an overall company. Nominations should be for a site manager who has stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty, to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority.

Specific criteria - Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC surveyor; evidence of build quality and control on site; evidence/examples of technical awareness, good communication and management of safety; evidence of particular issues or problems resolved by the site agent; references/comments from building control or other development partners to support the nomination.

ROB BOYD
ISG
Ysgol Nant Talwg, Barry.

STEVE JAMES
SG BUILDERS
for various projects.

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG
LABC CYMRU

STEVE NORTHAM
TAYLOR WIMPEY
Scholars View, Cowbridge.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

THE SPONSORS

GLAMORGAN GEM

THE Glamorgan GEM is proud to once again co-sponsor the twelfth annual Vale of Glamorgan Building Awards.

As the Vale's most widely-distributed weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular.

As such, it gives us genuine pleasure to publicly acknowledge their professional achievements – and what better way to do this than through these prestigious Vale of Glamorgan Council awards?

The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves

The GEM, too, is pleased to play its part in honouring this Vale success story.

Recognition must be given to Jan Irving, who has co-ordinated the awards supplement for The GEM for twelve years.

Caroline Attya, General Manager

A JEWSON LOT MORE

WITH over 600 branches across the country, Jewson is the UK's leading supplier of sustainable timber and building materials.

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In addition to timber and building materials, Jewson also has specialist landscaping, joinery, insulation, tool hire, brick, kitchen and bathroom centres up and down the country.

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NINA Chivers has been operating as an estate agent since the 1990s, and over the years has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative and well known independent estate agents in The Vale.

Nina Estate Agents Ltd have a sales and lettings office that operates in the most fashionable, desirable and sought-after areas.

We offer a range of services that extend well beyond simple sales and lettings, such as property management, refurbishment advice and regular up-to-date feedback on the progress of your property listings.

We also believe in supplying our clients with current information to ensure that they are able to make the best decisions possible.

We appear regularly in local newspapers such as The Glamorgan GEM, all portals and our Facebook page.

All of our sales and letting agents undergo regular in-house training to ensure that they remain on top of movement in the property market.

In addition, Nina Estate Agents Ltd conforms to all of the regulations and guidelines as outlined by the industry's regulatory bodies (NAEA), so you can rest assured that we are an estate and letting agent that you can trust.

ACD SKIPS

ACD Skips is a family-run company that was set up in Bridgend as a one-lorry operation in 1993.

The company has grown in size quite considerably and has overcome many hurdles, due to the vast changes in Environmental legislation and waste policies.

It currently runs a fleet of waste collection vehicles with its own maintenance facility, and operates a materials recycling centre at premises on Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend, which is a central base with easy M4 access.

The company is progressive, is open to any new waste reduction initiatives, and actively pursues new waste recycling ideas.

It continues to source waste streams to recycling end-users. Understanding the requirements of its customers, together with good service, remains a top priority.

THE VALE RESORT

THE Vale Resort will be strengthening its conference facilities even further in 2015 as Hensol Castle opens its doors to the business market from April.

The Vale Resort offers conference suites designed with today's business clientele in mind and can cater comfortably for 10-700 delegates with a choice of 11 multi-functional business suites.

In 2014 the resort was privileged to host the players for the Seniors Open Golf Championships, heads of state from three countries for the NATO Summit and Real Madrid for the EUFA European Super Cup and are proud to be home to the Wales Rugby team, Cardiff City FC and Cardiff Blues RFC.

Hensol Castle, a unique grade I listed stately home, will offer a new purpose-built Courtyard Hall to cater for 320 delegates theatre style and 200 banquet style. This will be complemented by four smaller conference rooms in the castle itself that can host between 60-120 delegates per room theatre-style.

The resort leisure facilities include 143 luxuriously appointed bedrooms, 2 championship golf courses, Wales' largest spa, award winning dining, and exceptional sporting facilities. Add to this, ample FREE parking, WIFI, easy access off the M4 – and it's easy to see why the Vale Resort is the ideal location for business and for pleasure.

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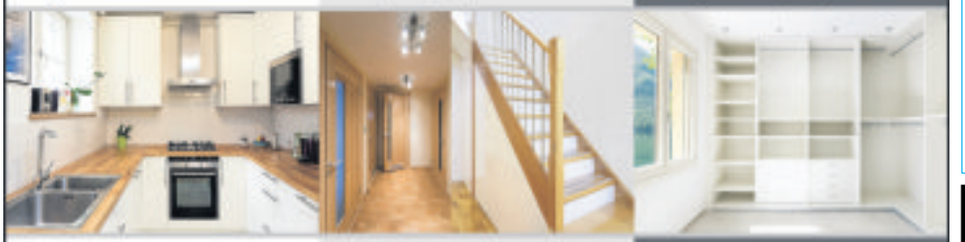

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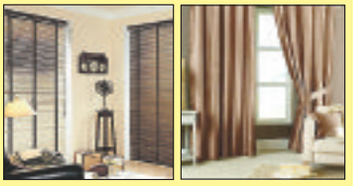

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01493/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of two detached dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Plot 1 and Plot 2, River Walk, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00057/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed kitchen extension to existing dwelling and proposed detached garage/store/family room to rear garden (in place of existing garage)
Location:/Lleoliad: Glen Cottage, 39, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01121/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair and replace single glazed windows with double glazing windows to match existing design and colour (Green/White) repair or replace external doors - some with S/G inset Panels with matching design and colour (green/White) - some with D/G Inset Panels. Replace Porch (mo.1) - Double Glazed to match existing
Location:/Lleoliad: 1-6 Cottages, Church Row, Pendoylan
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01359/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Installation of CCTV camera and associated power feed
Location:/Lleoliad: Eastern Shelter, Eastern Promenade, Barry Island
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2015/00052/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Illuminated new signage
Location:/Lleoliad: 4, Westgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01521/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Covered double garage set within garden topography with green roof
Location:/Lleoliad: Penybryn, Pen y Lan Road, Aberthin
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Penybryn, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01401/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development on land to the north and south of Leckwith Road, (including land at Leckwith Motor Company) and associated ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Leckwith Motor Company, Leckwith Road, Llandough, Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01490/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays to provide approximately 5MW generation capacity together with power inverter systems; transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; deer fencing, CCTV and associated access gate.
Location:/Lleoliad: Llancadle Farm, Llancadle

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01424/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of agricultural land to residential development (C3) including the development of 124 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, highway improvements and associated engineering works.
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off St. Brides Road, Wick

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2014/01401/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development on land to the north and south of Leckwith Road, (including land at Leckwith Motor Company) and associated ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Leckwith Motor Company, Leckwith Road, Llandough, Penarth

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Dated / Dyddiedig: 29 January, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Properties of the Week

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Five-vehicle M4 collision ends up with 28 people taken to south Wales hospitals

by GEM REPORTER

A five vehicle collision took place on the M4 on Saturday, January 24, and 28 people were taken to hospital.

The incident took place on the eastbound section of the motorway just before midday near junction 34. It involved a coach with people from the Maesteg area heading to the Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

One casualty was airlifted to hospital and 27 others were taken by ambulance to a number of hospitals in south Wales

A Welsh Ambulance Service spokesperson said staff received a call at 11.50am.

"We were called to reports of a multi-vehicle road traffic collision on the M4 near junction 34. We responded with six emergency ambulances, five 'high dependency service' vehicles, two rapid response vehicles, an advanced paramedic practitioner, two patient care service vehicles, a doctor and two helicopters.

"There were 38 patients at scene, 28 of whom were taken to hospitals, including the Princess of Wales Hospital, the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, the University Hospital of Wales and Prince Charles Hospital.

Tracy Myhill, chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service, said she and the trust were proud of the staff who were involved in dealing with the incident.

She said: "Their professionalism is a credit to the service."

The Fire Service used cutting equipment to get casualties out of vehicles and staff also gave first aid.

A police spokeswoman said that most of the casualties were classed as 'walking wounded'.

"Six of them were more serious although none are believed to be life threatening or life changing.

"The bus is understood to have contained people from the Bridgend area travelling to Cardiff to see a show.

"A further collision occurred in the westbound carriageway at the same location a few minutes later where a vehicle towing another vehicle overturned. There were no injuries in this collision.

"Delays were encountered in both directions as the collisions were dealt with."

The police spokeswoman also made this appeal: ***"Anyone who witnessed the collision involving the bus who have not already given their details to police is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101".***

African Children's Choir is welcomed to Senedd by AM

Jane Hutt AM, Graham Ellis and the African Children's Choir.

THE African Children's Choir visited the Senedd during its trip to Wales and were welcomed by Jane Hutt, the Vale AM, and the First Minister, Carwyn Jones.

Graham Ellis, who organised the choir's visit, accompanied the children to the Senedd, who later performed at a concert at St David's Hall Cardiff. The children all came from Uganda, where Jane Hutt lived as a child.

DYFFRYN STAFF IN BIG PORTHCAWL BEACH CLEAN-UP!

DYFFRYN GARDENS staff are cleaning up Coney beach in Porthcawl this week – to help celebrate 50 years of the successful coastline campaign 'Project Neptune', and get ready for the thousands of day-trippers and holiday-makers this spring and summer.

Project Neptune was launched in 1965 and is the National Trust's longest running appeal. It raises funds and helps to look after more than 740 miles of coastline in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. So far, the campaign has raised over £65 million.

The task was the brainchild of a gardener at Dyffryn Gardens, Dan Staniforth, who regularly visits the beach to surf: "I try and do some litter picking before work, but it's amazing how quickly the litter builds up. Besides being unsightly to visitors to the beach, it is also harmful to the bird and animal species that live here, so we wanted to do something about it."

The Dyffryn team will be at Coney Beach in Porthcawl on Friday, January 30 from 10am to 1pm, and are asking residents to lend the team a hand, or just to say hello.

Anyone wanting to get involved in future projects should email dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information

Airline Links up Cardiff Airport

UK REGIONAL airline, LinksAir, operator of the north-south Wales air-link between Cardiff and Anglesey has announced a new daily weekday Norwich service from Cardiff Airport, commencing on April 20.

LinksAir will commence the new daily service on weekdays, with competitive air fares from just £59 one-way, including all taxes and charges.

The Cardiff-Norwich service will depart Cardiff Airport at Rhoose at 10:20am each morning, arriving at Norwich Airport a little over an hour later at 11:25am, saving over four hours on existing rail or road journey times.

"With a well-timed 2:20pm return service (1.20 pm on a Friday), this new air-link will allow significant time and cost savings on the current difficult cross-country journey so many have to endure," said Spencer Birns, aviation and business development director at Cardiff Airport.

"It is great to see LinksAir adding new routes from Cardiff and taking advantage of the opportunity to connect Wales even further.

"Norfolk and the East Anglian region will appeal to both business and leisure customers, as well as bring visitors in to Wales."

CHOIRS OF BARRY CONCERT

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans, invites the public to a Choirs of Barry concert on Friday, February 27 at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry at 7pm.

The concert will feature Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies' Choir and Barry Choral Society. Tickets, £5, are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA. For more information, contact 01446 704921, or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

You can follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

VARIOUS ROADS, CARDIFF AIRPORT (VARIOUS PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS TO VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS) (ANTI-TERRORISM) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On the 29th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 14(1) and 22C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

2. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2015 and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

3. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 30th January 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

Except as provided by this Order:

No person shall proceed on foot or cause or permit any vehicle or cycle to proceed, stop or wait at any time, in the location specified within the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE

Location	All roads between the roundabout where the airport access road meets the A4226/B4265 and the junctions where the two airport access roads meet Port Road. Footpaths (Public Rights of Way) Penmark No's 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21, together with Restricted By-Way known as Penmark No 18 throughout their lengths
Reasons	These prohibitions, restrictions and limitations are made for the purpose of avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the roads; avoiding, reducing, or reducing the likelihood of, danger connected with terrorism or for a purpose relating to danger or damage connected with terrorism (as defined in Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000).
Duration	From 18.01 hours on 30th January 2015 for a maximum period of 18 Months.
Alt Route	The diversions for south east bound traffic will be from the roundabout adjacent to the Aircraft Maintenance Facility, then in a south easterly direction along the A4226 to the roundabout at the junction with Port Road then in a south westerly direction along Port Road, to the Airport and vice-versa. None for footpath closures.

Dated this 29th day of January 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe
CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (GWRTHDERFYSGAETH) (DROS DRO) (GWAHARDD CERDDWYR A CHERBYDAU A CHYFYNGU AR EU SYMUDIADAU) FFYRDD AMRYWIOL, MAES AWYR CAERDYDD 2015

1. Ar 29 Ionawr 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adrannau 14(1) a 22C Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 30 Ionawr 2015, a chewch weld copi ohono yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

3. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod wedi methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 30 Ionawr 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw

Ac eithrio fel y darperir drwy'r Gorchymyn hwn:

Ni fydd unrhyw un yn cerdded nac yn peri nac yn caniatáu i gerbyd na beic symud, stopio neu aros yn y lleoliad a bennwyd yn yr Atodlen isod.

ATODLEN

Lleoliad	Pob ffordd rhwng y gylchfan lle y mae ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â'r A4226/B4265 a'r cyffyrdd lle y mae'r ddwy ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â Port Road. Llwybrau Troed (Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus) Pen-marc rhifau 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21 a'r Ffordd Ddidramwy Gyfyngedig a adwaenir fel llwybr Pen-marc rhif 18, ar eu hyd.
Rhesymau	Diben y gwaharddiadau a'r cyfyngiadau hyn fydd un ai osgoi, lleihau ynteu lleihau'r posibilrwydd o berygl mewn perthynas â therfysgaeth (fel y'i diffinnir yn Adran 1 Deddf Terfysgaeth 2000).
Cyfnod	O 06.01pm ar 30 Ionawr 2015 am 18 mis ar y mwyaf.
Llwybr arall	Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de-ddwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o'r gylchfan ger y Cyfleustra Cynnal a Chadw Awyrennau, i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain, ar hyd yr A4226 hyd at y gylchfan wrth y gyffordd â Port Road. Bydd yn symud ymlaen wedyn i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin ar hyd Port Road, i'r maes awyr. Bydd traffig o'r cyfeiriad arall yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith. Ni fydd llwybr amgen ar gyfer defnyddwyr y llwybrau troed a gaewyd.

Dyddiedig 29 Ionawr 2015

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô
CF5 6AA

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Happy with the council – *as it is!*

ONCE again, our elected masters in the Westminster Parliament and now in Cardiff, are treating our counties and councils in Wales like some giant chess set!

The ultimatum from the Assembly to the Welsh Councils is, to merge voluntarily or "else we will do it for you"!

In the 40 years I have lived in Cowbridge, I have 'belonged' to Glamorgan, South Glamorgan and Vale of Glamorgan. In that time, Cowbridge has been administered from Pontypridd, milked by Cardiff to build the Bay, and now run from Barry.

I am happy with the way the Vale Council operates now. Maybe because it can flip flop between an elected Labour or Conservative administration, it keeps our councillors on their toes.

It is viable, self-contained, a well-run organisation, and has won various awards for its services over the years. It does not need to merge with anyone.

Any ratepayer who thinks a merger will reduce their council tax, only needs to look back to previous changes to dispel that idea.

Would our AM, Jane Hutt, like to take the message back to the Assembly: *"If it isn't broke don't mend it"*?

If she can't do this, then perhaps explain to us (because no one has yet!) where VoG are going wrong and how a merger would benefit those who pay the pipers without calling the tune!

I have heard, second-hand, that the idea is to save money on the reduction in the number of councillors and on the administrations.

Is it a just a coincidence that our Masters want to increase the number of Assembly Members, enlarge the Chamber, and award themselves an inflation-busting pay rise?

HT Hailes,
Cowbridge.

'Merge with Cardiff – and not Bridgend'

WHAT on earth has possessed the Vale Council to think its residents want to merge with Bridgend?

They have been told by the majority that merging with Cardiff is the preferred option.

The council has never been good at listening to what residents want or don't want, and dismiss our views as irrelevant to the cause.

I would love to have been a fly on the wall to hear the discussions, especially the private conversations between the Vale and Bridgend on the matter.

Once again, Vale residents have been dismissed and stitched up by the council because in their view we do not count.

This matter should have gone to a vote – it's the residents who should have been given the choice – not those who were supposedly elected to do right by us.

They can't do right by their employees from what I hear, judging by the number of people who have supposedly lost their jobs to contractors.

Anne Usher,
Barry.

'Whatever happened to moral principles?

AT the end of World War Two, a minority of the population shared the vision of the PM, Clem Attlee, that we should create a totally different kind of society.

It would be based upon the ideals of universal health care and full employment, rather than return to the unjust economics and society of the 1930s, which was the intention of those who benefited most from that.

Full employment had been an essential part of the nation's response to war, so Atlee thought decent citizens might recognise this chance to build a society based on principles.

However, Labour was voted out of power at the next election – to embrace once more, the British class divisions of the 1930s.

What is interesting is the complete change in the popular culture since that time, whereby the very notion of founding the national economy upon any form of moral principle, such as full employment, or any other ideal, such as honesty in commerce, has no appeal to the great majority of voters.

Mostly, the citizens are obsessed with personalities, rather than principles, but their method of measuring human life is largely based on money.

"Where is the money to come from?" they ask, as if they did not know that presently it is grossly wasted on oligarchs.

If Atlee were with us today, the ideals which inspired his life would find no echo in the beliefs of today's population, who absorb their values from the TV screen.

C N Westerman,
Brynna.

'Obstacles in the way of recycling'

WITH the announcement of the closure of all small recycling banks in the Vale of Glamorgan, I and others find it very hard to take on board the pathetic excuse that these facilities are being abused by the public and fly tippers in particular.

Where on earth do we get these people from? They pride themselves on their ability to make so-called sensible and economical decisions, when in actual fact, they contribute to the major problem of fly tipping in the first place.

Half the time these recycling banks are full to overflowing because they do not collect from these sites often enough. When they have closed them down, there is obviously going to be increased fly tipping elsewhere, in country lanes and by the roadside.

If there are fly tippers guilty of tipping at these recycling banks, then that is a good thing and not a bad thing – because at least the authorities will be aware of where to clean up, rather than sending a lorry at taxpayers' expense to places like the picnic area on the Five Mile Lane each and every time they get a complaint from these areas (which will increase a hundredfold after the closure of recycling banks).

This will cost them thousands of pounds more than if they kept these banks open.

They should make it known that you can deposit any form of recycling at these banks, instead of the antiquated system of permit-only at recycling centres. Some tradesmen, for example, will not take their items to the centres because they have to pay to deposit their items of no further use at these recycling centres.

The tradesmen then dump this stuff all over the Vale, leaving the council to clean up at a considerably higher cost than if they allowed the tradesmen access to the recycling centres free of charge.

It beggars belief that in an age where we are all being educated on the benefits of making a greener planet by maximum recycling of our unwanted goods, that we get obstacles put in our way which prevent us from doing what is Government advice.

I can assure readers that each time I see evidence of fly tipping anywhere in the Vale, I will personally report it by the hour until it is removed. They say that recycling banks are costing too much money, they should look at the money they waste on schemes like refurbishing council chambers and the money wasted on council staff/officials exit packages, (over £3.5m in a four year period).

We, the humble council taxpayers, have to foot these bills and then suffer cuts to essential services, such as recycling bank closures and library closures etc.

Barrie V Evans,
(*Coordinator, Barry First Group, Barry Voice, FocusBarry Supporter*).

'Scrap the Police Commissioner'

ONCE again, we are to see a five per cent rise in the cost we pay for our local police force – which is above inflation and will hit our pockets.

When you think of the costs for the Police Commissioner and his staff, isn't it time we scrapped this post and gave the job to the Welsh Government?

Surely, it would be much better to spend the money directly on frontline policing. So how about all the political parties promising to scrap these costly jobs at the next election?

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry,
Independent, Vale Council.

'Take action over NHS problems'

CARWYN JONES AM in his recent article was trying to defend the indefensible against the onslaught from Westminster, where Tories are slating him and his Labour-led Government for the state of our NHS here in Wales.

I certainly don't hold any liking for Cameron or his Tory Government, but on this issue he is right. Under Carwyn Jones and Mark Drakeford, our NHS in Wales has gone back to the dark ages.

We have our own doctors and nurses writing to newspapers informing us of the dire straits and the pressures they are under due to lack of funding.

In one paper today, there is a headline stating that A&E times at Welsh accident and emergency hospitals are the worst since records began. The Welsh Government's target for people to be seen within four hours is 95 per cent, yet it is barely reaching 81 per cent.

At the UHW, the figure is 74.5 per cent; at the Princess of Wales Hospital it is even worse. It's no good throwing more money at the NHS, it's much too late, the damage has been done, thanks to Labour Government incompetence.

DJ Radford,
Barry.

Visitors'view of development plan at Darren Farm

WE visit your shores on a regular basis for holidays and often make Cowbridge our base to visit various parts of the UK.

We love the fact that Cowbridge is an outstanding historic market town, with great charm and character, currently unspoilt by huge housing estates, unlike many equivalent English market towns.

It is with dismay that we heard recently of the planning application to build 390 houses at Darren Farm on the outskirts of the town.

Our concern is that this proposal would destroy a beautiful greenfield site and marvelous views to the west of Cowbridge, thus potentially establishing a precedent for further development.

It would be a travesty to rob this unique market town of its special character, especially as we understand there are alternative brownfield sites in the Vale, with established rail links.

In addition, as parking is already at a premium in Cowbridge, the development would add significantly to traffic and parking congestion, which would undoubtedly impact on residents and visitors alike – not to mention pressure on services.

We hope your readers will take our concerns into consideration and take the time to make representations to the council, opposing the said development, before the February 5 deadline.

We believe the quickest way to do this is to visit the 'Save Darren Farm' website, or write to Mr M Goldsworthy at the dock office, Barry, quoting planning reference 2014/01505/OUT.

Matthew and
Tara Busch,
Los Angeles, California.

Price stability?

THE Bank of England Governor wants to "... ensure price stability by bringing inflation back (up) to 2 per cent". Words change their meanings, but he could clarify "stability" by saying that effectively he wants to make all weights and measures smaller by 2 per cent a year.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge

The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

'WRITER DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE MAJORITY'

I WAS really surprised last week to read the letter from an anonymous writer taking The GEM to task for printing articles in Welsh, on the basis that it was "pandering to a minority".

In a world where so much unhappiness is being caused by intolerance, it is really saddening to discover intolerance on our own doorstep.

My only consolation is that I do not believe the writer is correct in asserting that theirs is the majority opinion.

Although more people in Cowbridge speak English, it does not follow that they are anti-Welsh language.

I have discussed the article with a lot of English-speaking friends over the last few days, and not a single person has supported the writer's views.

As a Welsh person who does not speak Welsh, it makes me very proud every time I hear Welsh spoken in Cowbridge, to know that the language is thriving and growing – and I certainly don't feel alienated.

When I saw the Welsh feature in The GEM, I was genuinely pleased that another opportunity was being given to promote the Welsh language.

I would also like to point out the inaccuracy of the statement that "*it is no surprise that many are now moving away to secure better education, better paid jobs and a better lifestyle*." Now?

Is the writer unaware of Welsh history and current demographic trends?

Pupils go where the courses they want to study are offered. With a smaller number of higher education establishments than England, it has always been the case that a lot of our students move away to study.

How gratifying then to discover that Cardiff University has just jumped from 35 in the University League Tables to 23 – an unprecedented change.

At secondary and primary school level, Cowbridge has enviable education provision. My friends living in London have nearly all put their children in private education because of the difficulty of securing a place at good schools – yet great education is something we take for granted in Cowbridge, and is a primary reason new families move here.

The writer is right to state that people move away for better paid jobs to places like London and the home counties; but I moved to London for a better paid job 35 years ago, so what's changed?

Isn't it equally true that people move to London from the West Country, the north-east, and other parts of England – yet they're not escaping the Welsh language.

However, it is the last assertion about a better lifestyle that raises a smile and proves the writer has no credibility. Cowbridge and the Vale of Glamorgan nears the top of the polls every year for best place to live in Britain. Fact.

My English husband urged us to move back to Cowbridge from London to give our family a better lifestyle.

He was right. Hir yn byw y iaith Gymraeg (am hoping I got this right as I used a translation app).

Long live the Welsh language!

Eluned Moran,
Cowbridge.

'Don't blame Welsh for the nation's ills'

THE dinosaurs of Cowbridge have woken early this year. The GEM is a valued newspaper for all the citizens of the Vale.

There are seven Welsh medium primary schools (one of which is in Cowbridge) and a Welsh medium comprehensive school serving our county.

Welsh as a second language is taught in all the other primary and secondary schools, as required by the Government of Wales.

It appears that the person who wrote to you anonymously would like people who are Welsh speaking not to spend their money shopping, eating and drinking anywhere in Cowbridge. How bizarre!

And no, dear anonymous letter writer, the Welsh language cannot be blamed for the state of the economy, etc.

It is the policies of the central Government in London that have got us into the mess you describe.

D Gareth Evans,
Y Barri.

CLUB LOOKS BACK ON A BUSY YEAR

Photographs by **IAN DIXON**

ABOVE: Chris and his team of caterers.

THE Peterston-super-Ely Flower and Gardening Club held its annual dinner recently in the community church hall.

Around 100 members enjoyed a splendid meal, provided by Chris and his young team, and quizzes and raffles kept the evening flowing along merrily.

The chairman, David Smart, commented that "there is always a warm welcome awaiting new members, whether beginners or experts."

He added that the club holds monthly meetings with guest speakers, plus social gatherings and trips to gardens, grand houses and garden centres.

Readers' Letters

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'DARREN FARM PLAN SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN'

I WRITE in support of Mr Paul Jeremy's articulate and well-argued letter in last week's GEM.

Your readers will be fully aware by now of the planning application for the development of 390 houses and a new highway from the A48 to the Llantwit Road. Objections to it must be submitted before February 5. These should be based on the widely available arguments presented by the Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents' Group.

Should the link road be built – it would have to come first – the housing would be built over some years, depending on market conditions obtaining at the time. It is likely that contracts for the building of houses will be let to more than one firm: CEG are not housebuilders.

However much the designers can now demonstrate a unity of overall design, the history of such large scale schemes shows that over a long time period standards will vary.

In order to achieve the economies of scale required to show a satisfactory return on their investment, mass builders have to employ an industrial system of building. Economics dictate that such components have to be used regardless of geographical location and local styles of building.

In effect, the parts of the houses will be delivered on lorries and assembled on site. This estate will look like any other, part of what is called the 'no place realm', with little sympathy for historic Cowbridge.

What may now appear on paper as an attractive scheme, aesthetically speaking, in the fullness of time will probably deteriorate into the usual large peripheral estate of mass housing located on a windswept hill traversed by a high speed road and remote from the heart of Cowbridge.

I wrote initially opposing this development when it formed part of the Vale of Glamorgan's latest Local Development Plan, which it still does. However, this application is in advance of the approval of that plan.

What is it that motivates a successful local business to 'jump the gun' in this instance? If its case is a sound one – and clearly I do not think it is – what is to be lost by withdrawing this application and presenting the scheme as part of the LDP where it will be judged by the planning inspectorate?

Even if the current application is defeated, the scheduling of housing on Darren Farm land could, of course, remain in the LDP, which is what the Welsh Assembly Government wants, so that its target for housing is met – anywhere and at any cost to local communities.

I urge the people of Cowbridge to oppose this application by writing to the Vale Council.

RJ Buswell,
Cowbridge.

'Build in Barry or Llandow, not Darren Farm'

WHEN the last council elections were held in 2012, the Labour party pledged to 'scrap' the Local Development Plan (LDP).

This was replaced by their own LDP, similar in many cases, but with a significant difference in that there was a reduction in the proposed housing for Barry, balanced by an increase in housing provision for the rural Vale.

The largest of these was a new proposal for 390 houses at Darren Farm – an area where in 2003 the planning inspector appointed by the National Assembly rejected the appeal by developers to build 145 homes.

Many of the points raised in that inquiry are still valid: for example, the planning inspector considered that in the case of walking from the site "*the centre is too far away and the gradients too steep for comfortable trips*..."

In effect, people will mainly drive from that area into Cowbridge town centre, adding to the existing traffic congestion and parking problems.

The Vale Council Planning Department vigorously opposed the original development at the planning inquiry and it will be interesting to see how they can now support a development of almost three times the number of houses.

The Darren Farm site is in the 2013 Draft LDP which still has to be approved by the Welsh Government.

Unfortunately, the developers have submitted a planning application in advance of the decision. We are not happy with the proposals and will be objecting to this planning application.

At the 2003 appeal on Darren Farm, many individuals, including Jane Hutt AM, made representations against the proposals. We hope that they will join us in objecting to the latest plans for Darren Farm and also hope that many members of the public will make their views known.

There are also housing developments proposed in the LDP for many of the villages in the rural Vale which will change their character.

We believe that the Vale Council should, therefore, look at further building in Barry and reconsider the development of the brownfield site at Llandow, instead of threatening the countryside and communities.

Geoffrey Cox,
Hunter Jarvie,
Conservative members for Cowbridge ward, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

MYSTERY KEY

LAST Thursday, January 22, a lady left a key at our house, saying to my husband that my sisters and I knew all about it. Unfortunately, we don't!

The key is marked '*Philip's key*' on a rubber holder attached to a leather key fob marked '*Yildirim Kemer*'. Somebody somewhere must now be wondering where their key is.

I have given my contact details to The GEM. (***Name and address supplied***).

TO LET ON LICENCE

THE FOLLOWING GRAZING LAND IS AVAILABLE BY INFORMAL TENDER FROM 1st APRIL 2015 - 31st JANUARY 2016:

2.58 acres - opp. Manor House, Sully Road, Penarth

Closing date for receipt of completed Tenders is **12 NOON FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2015**

Contact: Dean Lacey, Estates Section,
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices,
Holton Road,
Barry CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709335

Email: delacey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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sales@chris-davies.co.uk

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NEW PRICE
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3 Beds. 2 Recps
Views of Countryside
Quiet Close
£179,950 D56

NEW SSTC
Brecon Street, Llantwit Major
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Combi Boiler
£154,950

NEW
Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
Garage
Private Garden
£224,950 E52

NEW PRICE
Monmouth Way, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Garage
£204,500

NEW PRICE
Monmouth Way, Boverton
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Garage
£204,950 C72

Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
Building Plot, 4 Beds, 2 Recps
Detached
£85,000

NEW PRICE
Gileston Road, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
GCH Combi
Log Burner
£125,000 D59

NEW
Walnut Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
GCH Combi
£104,950 D67

NEW
Higher End, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Barn Conversion
Southerly Garden
£369,950 E54

NEW
Picketston Close, St. Athan
3 Bedrooms,
Conservatory
Quiet Cul De Sac
£125,000

NEW
Higher End, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
90' Garden. Garage
£265,000 D57

NEW
Shackleton Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
Well Presented
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NEW SSTC
Stallcourt Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
Corner Plot
£179,950 D63

NEW PRICE
Crawshay Drive, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
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Hockey 'A' team maintain unbeaten run...while seniors suffer heavy loss

PENARTH Hockey Club's Second XI maintained their unbeaten run into a sixth game with victory at home, but there was bad news for the senior team on their Davis Wood Hockey League travels.

PENARTH 'A' 3-2 WHITCHURCH 'G'

Returning to action after an enforced one-week break thanks to the recent cold snap, Penarth's 2nd XI entertained Whitchurch 'G' at Colcot Sports Centre looking to further extend a rare unbeaten streak stretching back to the fixture with Whitchurch 'F' in late November.

Able to field a strong side, featuring a blend of youth and experience, Penarth started the stronger with the industrious Nathan Townsend and wily Rob Harrison providing the link between defence and attack.

The cutting edge was missing up front, however, until Dave Watkins was introduced midway through the half, but the veteran immediately linked up with Rory Vizard to put the home side ahead.

Whitchurch refused to be bowed by falling behind, and increased the pressure on Penarth's goal, with the Bears grateful to have Jason Harris between the sticks as he frustrated the visitors' best efforts to the interval. Penarth could have gone further ahead shortly before the break, only for Craig Llewellyn's penalty corner strike to be unwittingly deflected past the post by a defender.

Despite their opponents' lowly position in De Cymru 2, Penarth knew that they had to get quick goals in order to settle the game but, as has become habit, allowed the visitors' to get back on terms by conceding an early equaliser.

With Whitchurch earning a string of penalty corners, the next few minutes were nervy for the home side, before a double strike midway through the half appeared to put the game to bed.

Watkins added a second to restore the Vale side's advantage, before Penarth turned defence into attack as Llewellyn retrieved a stray ball deep in his own 25 and a quick series of passes set up Paul Thomas to double the margin.

Whitchurch refused to go quietly, however, and continued to put pressure on the home defence, pulling one goal back late on before veterans Graeme Jones, Paul Roberts and Zbig Sobierserski went into lockdown mode.

A late penalty corner threat was nullified shortly before the final whistle sounded, giving Penarth a hard-fought 3-2 victory that confirms sixth spot in their division ahead of a string of fixtures with higher-placed teams.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY 'A' 5-1 PENARTH

Two high-scoring victories either side of the Christmas break saw Penarth's senior team head to Llys Tal-y-Bont in confident spirits, only to have the bubble burst by a well-organised Cardiff University side.

The 5-1 reverse made a dent in Penarth's recently-repaired goal difference, but the Bears remain seventh overall in De Cymru & The Marches 1, and still within touching distance of the top four with eight matches remaining.

With the 2nds taking a week off due to the odd number of teams in De Cymru 2, only the 1st XI will be in action this weekend, hosting a high-flying Hereford side that inflicted a heavy defeat on the Vale side earlier in the season.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers, regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Ninja kids put on demo show

Three ninjas getting their first belt.

YOUNG students from Vale based Tae Kwon Do School, JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness, put on a display for parents, family and friends as they helped to launch new classes at St Nicholas Hall, Barry on February 16.

The youngsters, aged from three to five years old, showcased the skills they have learned at 'Ninja Kids', JSTKD's programme aimed at the most junior group of budding martial artists.

Saturday's event saw a record number of children attaining their latest colour Ninja belts.

Visit www.jstkd.co.uk for full details or call on 07711 234500.

VW

AM PRAISES SUPPORT FOR TY HAFAN CHARITY

Jane Hutt AM and the Aberthaw team with donations for Ty Hafan.

LAST week, Vale AM Jane Hutt met Aberthaw Power Station staff, who had collected 30 bags of donated goods for Ty Hafan children's hospice.

She welcomed the donations and thanked the team for their support for this wonderful charity.

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Property Address: 5 Windsor Court, Holmesdale Street, Grangetown, Cardiff. CF11 7HR. We are acting for the mortgagees in possession and have received an offer of £53,000 for the above mentioned property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the agent before exchange of contracts takes place. Allen & Harris 183 Cowbridge Rd East, Canton, Cardiff CF11 9AJ. T: 029 2022 2344
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WHITCHURCH

Pencoed RFC do the double over Cwmgors

PENCOED recorded a season's double over their west Wales visitors, Cwmgors, at the Recreation Ground.

Early scrum pressure from the home side drove their opponents off the ball to set up field position and following a number of phases the ball reached Lloyd Ryland in midfield and the centre straightened into the 22 before stepping fullback Lloyd Watson to score at the posts; Marc Davies added the extras.

Pencoed soon increased their lead with some good combined handling, Davies engaging a couple of defenders before offloading to right wing Glen Hiscocks who raced over on the left flank for a 12-0 lead.

Cwmgors soon hit back as driving play set up good ruck ball and moving the ball through their threequarters, left wing Gavin Madge was sent over wide out, outside half Stef Rees adding a fine conversion.

Home left wing Aaron Songhurst then did well to take a difficult high ball and set up a counter from his own half and with Pencoed establishing a platform in the visitors' 22, a series of dominant scrums saw No 8 Gareth Prentice get the pushover try; Davies converted for a 19-7 lead.

Pencoed continued on top but to their credit the visitors defended stubbornly, with No 8 Hills getting through a lot of good work in retreat, and the home side had to settle for a 12-point lead at the interval.

Driving play from the home pack took play to the Cwmgors try line at the opening of the half, but once again Cwmgors defended stoutly.

It took a clever well-weighted kick from home scrum half Rhys Clarke to expose the visitors' defence for the bonus point try, Hiscocks racing onto the bounce for a well-worked score.

ABOVE: Aaron Halse on the burst for the first team, while RIGHT: Daniel Farnham goes to ground for the seconds. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Davies converted and Pencoed led 26-7.

The match then proceeded to mirror the game played at Cwmgors, with Pencoed having set up a comfortable lead before Cwmgors started to enjoy their best period of the match.

A fine 40-metre clearance from home full back Tom Cross relieved the visitors' pressure, and only a fine cover tackle from back row forward Rhys Pope saved his side following a midfield interception.

A scrum against the head allowed Clarke to clear and take pressure off his side; however the visitors were now looking dangerous, and a 50-metre counter saw them break in midfield and Watson weaved his way over under the posts, scrum-half Jones converting to reduce the Pencoed lead to 26-14.

Cwmgors continued to press and only a double hit from home captain Keiron Moore and Prentice kept their line intact. The visitors were finishing strongly but the Pencoed defence were in no mood to let this one slip, and after absorbing a lot of pressure on their line, Pencoed broke clear to kill off any Cwmgors hopes, recycling possession in the visitors' 22 before young prop forward James Tredray drove over in impressive fashion, Adam Williams adding the conversion for a 33-14 victory.

On Saturday Pencoed host Maesteg in Division 2 West Central, 2.30pm kick off.

Jade Mullen, who scored for Pencoed Phoenix in their defeat to Gwernyfed, looks to attack.

PENCOED 2ND XV 15 NANTYFFYLLON 2ND XV 36

A well-drilled Nantyffyllon side moved through to the next round of the Mid Glamorgan Barrie Morris Plate in this well-contested affair on the Cabbage Patch.

The visitors dominated the first half, hardly suprising as the Pencoed team, some of whom were coming together for the first time, and playing their first rugby in recent months, battled to contain the Llynfi Valley side. Pencoed stepped up their efforts in the second half and dominated a number of scrums.

There were some good performances from a number of the home side, flanker Scott Griffiths getting a brace of tries in a hard-working performance along with Ashley Halse, and Luke Jones, who made an instant impact from halftime.

Behind the scrum, centre Dan Farnham did well, straightening the line to good effect, and diminutive scrum half Tom Daniel sent out a good service.

Tom also provided the highlight of the day for watching mother Sue, who found it hilarious watching her son trying to claw down the visitors' large prop forward!

Despite the final scoreline, experienced match observers commented that the Pencoed commitment was unquestionable, and in the circumstances a good performance.

The club are looking to boost their second team numbers and provide rugby on a regular basis at this club level (the 2nd XV play in Mid Glamorgan & District Division 1).

Any interested players, experienced or otherwise please contact the clubhouse on 01656 860152.

PENCOED PHOENIX 10 GWERNYFED 20

The score doesn't really reflect the effort and commitment the girls showed in this game.

This week, the Phoenix take on Bargoed in another round of the cup at home.

All are welcome to join this exciting group of girls and enjoy a great game and a possible future place in the Welsh squad – Phoenix already have two internationals and Ospreys/Blues players at senior and junior level.

Contact Michele Halse, team manager, on 07709 073912 or via the Pencoed Phoenix Facebook page.

TR

Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events:

Wednesday, 21 January - First, Norma and David Newman; Second, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Third, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones. Winners on handicap Norma and David Newman. Friday, 23 January - First, Adrian Thomas and Liam Sheridan; Second, Sue Hunt and Colin Lewis; Third, Alan Grant and Dennis Smith Winners on handicap Sue Hunt and Colin Lewis.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge. Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

The adjusted results for Thursday, 22 January were - First Christine and Geoff Tinkler; Second, Colin Lewis and Stuart Davies; Third, John Hillman and Mari Jones.

Lessons take place, also at Nolton Church Hall, on Thursday mornings at 11am; these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play - more information is available from John Evans.

DN

Ath impress with win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

As time played out the students gained some momentum, but when the Athletic were awarded a scrum it looked as though they were safe but again a penalty awarded against their driving scrum gave Cardiff Met one more opportunity.

Despite a series of attacks the home defence stayed strong and eventually forced the error to end the game.

This win was a real fillip for the Athletic as four of the five teams around them lost heavily and also lost ground in the Championship battle. That's three wins out of four for the Athletic but they face a tough encounter away to Swansea at St Helens this Saturday.

MD

Bridgend Sports under-15s claim impressive scalp

BRIDGEND Sports under-15s claimed their first win of 2015 with a convincing 24-5 victory over a physical Mountain Ash side.

The Sports have now done the double over Mountain Ash this season which is no mean feat.

The Sports made a dominant start to the game and they looked the most likely to open the scoring out of the two teams. Then, after a period of sustained pressure deep inside the Mountain Ash half, the Sports capitalised on this early momentum by scoring a fantastic team try.

Number 8 Calum Reape was driven over the line by several Sports players to score in the right hand corner. Calum has now scored in successive matches and this was his fifth try of the season.

Mountain Ash then responded by entering the Sports half for the first time in the match. Both teams were now cancelling each other out for several minutes, as the Sports were confident in defence and the visitors were happy to chip away with many phases which asked the Sports defence many questions.

Eventually, the away side wore down the Sports' stern defence to score just in from the left hand corner. The first half then finished all square with a vital second half to come in terms of the result.

The Sports certainly stepped their play up a gear in the second half and with Mountain Ash tiring this was a certainly a gear too far for them to contend with.

The Sports soon regained the lead when flanker Joe Davis showed good initiative to punish Mountain Ash by kicking a loose ball into the try area, which he then superbly chased down to score an impressive converted try.

The Sports were now playing with lots of flair, and this was backed up by centre Drew Price making a dummy pass to deceive the opposition into thinking that he was going to pass the ball, which then created a gap for Drew to score a try which he then converted under the posts to increase the Sports lead to 14 points.

The Sports then scored a textbook try to cap off a memorable win where the ball was passed swiftly across the backline to winger Ryan Morgan, who scored the Sports' fourth and final try of the match in the right hand corner. As a consequence of this final try, the Sports eased to a comfortable 24-5 victory.

Overall, it was pleasing to see a real team performance by the Sports which resulted in one of their better performances of the season. Hopefully we can carry this form into this week's match - well done!

TP

Sports under-9s' tough encounter against Kenfig Hill

TEAMS at any level know they will be in for a tough game when they visit Kenfig Hill, and Sunday's game for Bridgend Sports under-9s proved to be no different.

On a sticky pitch, both sides provided a thrilling game for those parents and spectators who braved the cold wind that ripped through Croft Goch playing fields.

Kenfig Hill won the toss and were straight on the attack. A good tackle and swift work from Callum Lewis saw the Sports claim loose ball and then race upfield with some stylish play and excellent handling skills from Jodi Keane, Joel Rogers, Dewi Worrall and Dylan Morgan, who took the final pass from Callum Lewis to score and for the Sports to take an early lead.

Kenfig Hill were soon level, as they hit back immediately from the restart, when the Sports failed to deal with a powerful attack down the touchline. Bridgend Sports continued to play an open style and they took the lead five times in the first period with tries from Dylan Morgan (2), Dewi Worrall, Tyron Davies and Mackenzie Dent.

Each time they scored however, Kenfig Hill responded with a try and the first period ended 5-5 with Donovan Rankin proving a powerful influence for the Mules.

The scoring pattern in the second period was almost the complete negative of the first period with Kenfig Hill scoring first, only for the Sports to fight back and level on each occasion. Bridgend Sports scored tries through Mackenzie Dent, Joel Rogers and Tyron Davies (2) while Donovan Rankin and Eli Cowen were a constant and significant part of the Mules armoury.

Both players possessed the pace and physical power to trouble the Sports and see their side edge the period 5-4, and an overall game score 10-9. For the Sports , it was a case of a more team-orientated approach with Joel Rogers, Dewi Worrall, Dylan Morgan, Callum Lewis, Tyron Davies, Alex Stimpson, Jodi Keane and Mackenzie Dent all making a positive contribution.

Two further periods followed in this highly competitive game; Kenfig Hill took an early 2-0 advantage in the third period. The Sports tried to hit back early, after Dylan Morgan broke out of the away side's half and then linked with supporting players Jodi Keane, Tyron Davies, Thomas Coles, Thomas Chick and Dewi Worrall, but, in the cold conditions, they just couldn't make the final pass stick.

They persevered and were eventually rewarded when Joel Rogers carved his way through to bring the scores within a point. Kenfig Hill responded with two further tries, only to see the Sports refuse to lie down as Callum Lewis, Joel Rogers and Tyron Davies made several skilful runs that resulted in tries for Mackenzie Dent and Tyron Davies.

The period ended 4-3 with the score as tight as the officiating and Kenfig Hill leading 14-12 overall. The pace and power of Eli Cowen and Donovan Rankin, for Kenfig Hill, ruled at the end of the day, as they took the game beyond the reach of the Sports in the fourth period.

The home team powered their way into a 3-1 lead that the Sports could not find their way back from and an excellent game ended in a 17-13 victory for the Mules.

It was the third time the sides had played each other this season, with the Sports edging the first game 10-8, Kenfig Hill the second 2-4 and this game 17-13. Both teams' young players deserve huge credit for their efforts in serving up an excellent feast of competitive rugby in this high scoring game.

Bridgend Sports under-9s are currently training at Maes yr Haul School, Broadlands, every Wednesday night at 6pm. New players are always very welcome to come and join us to learn and develop in a supportive and enjoyable environment; follow us on Twitter, @SportsMiniRugby, for information on training each week.

SP

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Public Notice

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Section 17 (5)
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NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT

An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a

PREMISES LICENCE

To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below.

Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of : Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:-

Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Name of applicant: Mr Gareth Roberts.

Name and postal address of the premises:
Little Penybont Arms, 11 Penybont Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5PY.

Statement of intended licensable activities: (1)
Sale of alcohol from hours 1100 to 2300 Monday - Sunday.

Date by which representations must be made: Tuesday 17th February 2015.

This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 20th January 2015, for 28 consecutive days.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

DAVIES
Lydia Mary

On January 17 at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend after a long illness, Lydia of Llanblethian and formerly of Llanmihangel Farm. Beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved mother of Carole, Angela, Christine and Julia, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday February 2, service 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by private interment. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to the Cystic Fibrosis Adult Centre at Llandough Hospital. Please make cheques payable to Better Life Appeal, c/o J.W. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

DAVIES
Glyn George

Died peacefully on January 13th, aged 86, well known for his time at The Welsh National School Of Medicine. Glyn, of Pontypridd Road, beloved husband of the late Jean, father to Andrew and Judi. Proud Grandad to Christopher, Louisa Kate, Matthew and Oliver.

Funeral service Friday, 6th February at 2pm in All Saints Church, Barry, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry at 3pm.

Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Ty Hafan, if desired. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

JOHNS
Patricia Mary

Peacefully on January 19 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, Pat (nee Regan) of Rhoose and formerly of Penmark. Dearly loved mother of Mary, Jill and Peter, much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday February 3, service and interment 11.00am at Penmark Church. Flowers may be sent to Funeral Home.

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of Llantwit Major

would like to say a big thank you to all her friends and family for their kindness and the many cards sent to her at this very sad time, due to the loss of Graham Davies.

JONES
Mair (nee Davies)

Originally from Pontarddulais, Mair lived for many years in West Pontnewydd, Llanyrafon, Cwmbran and latterly in Porthcawl. She died peacefully in Princess of Wales Hospital on Thursday, 15 January 2015, aged 85 years. Dearly loved wife of Chris, much loved mum of Heather and Christine and their husbands Rodger and Martyn, also loving grandmother to Beth, James and Jon.

Funeral service at Cowbridge United Free Church, Westgate, Cowbridge CF71 7AQ on Tuesday, 3 February at 11.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm, black not necessary. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the British Heart Foundation, c/o Mr Jack Hawkins, 10 Percy Smith Road, Boverton, Llantwit Major, CF61 1GW. All enquiries to Thomas Bros, St Brides Major, on 01446 775681.

LEWIS
Margaret (Peggy)

Peacefully on Sunday, January 18th at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness, Peggy Lewis of Aberthin, Cowbridge.

Beloved wife of the late Tom, devoted mother of Tony, Roger and Graham, loving mother-in-law of Lesley, Jan and Nick, caring grandmother of Gareth, Owen, Rhys and Rhodri, and fond great-grandmother of Lila.

Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015, at 12 noon, followed by a family only cremation at Coychurch. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the Salvation Army, Cardiff, CF10 5TY, either directly or in the church collection.

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30th January 2015

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Fill empty stalls at indoor market – CALL

REGIONAL AM, Suzy Davies, has again urged Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to come up with a marketing strategy for empty stalls at the Maesteg indoor market.

Mrs Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, visited the market to talk to traders concerned about falling footfall since the loss of the newsagent and bakery stalls more than a year ago. At the moment, there are five empty stalls in the market.

Mrs Davies, who was accompanied by Ogmore Conservative candidate Jane March, said that the council had spent over £2m on the outdoor market, but nothing had been spent on the market hall for decades.

"Traders are very frustrated at the moment," she said. "The stallholders are doing their best to make the market attractive to shoppers. They have paid for bunting and Christmas decoration.

"The Market Traders Association is also working hard to get the council to invest in an upgrade but with no luck. They have just been told that they cannot even have a lick of paint. The market hall is looking very dated and tired, especially when compared to the new market stalls outside.

"It seems to me that there is no strategy for the indoor market. When I raised it before, the council said they were keen to encourage budding entrepreneurs. Good. But that aspiration is not a strategy. They must draw up plans for a revamp and then market the empty stalls effectively.

Suzy Davies AM (right) at Maesteg market.

"They could take a leaf out of Swansea Council's book when it comes to advertising for new stall holders. Swansea specifies the type of stall that's needed to make the market attractive to draw in new shoppers and repeat visitors."

Mrs March said that the council was losing revenue with un-let stalls and this was making the market less viable.

She said: "It is in everyone's interest for these stalls to be let especially as some of them cost more than £100 a week and they have been empty for over a year. That's a big loss of revenue if you multiply it by four or five.

"But the businesses that come in should enhance the appeal of the market to shoppers. Ideally, stalls that draw in people every day like those selling newspapers and bread should be targeted."

Town centre on agenda at AGM

'THE Future of Town Centres' will be the subject when Porthcawl's town-centre manager speaks at the SUSSED Annual General Meeting.

The AGM of Porthcawl's ethical, green and local shop, SUSSED, takes place at 5, James Street Porthcawl at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 5.

Following the formal part of the meeting, guest speaker Rhiannon Kingsley, town-centre manager for Porthcawl, Bridgend and Maesteg, will be speaking on 'The Future Of Town Centres' and in particular, ideas for Porthcawl.

Questions on the saga of the 'new Porthcawl supermarket' and what fresh ideas are emerging from BCBC, are expected.

SUSSED continues to lobby for new pedestrian access between Hillsboro Place and Hillsboro car park via the clinic.

Director, Margaret Minhinnick describes this public way into the town centre as "ugly, unsafe and dangerous."

Also, there will be questions as to whether there are plans to limit traffic using James Street as a 'turning circle' (recent damage has been done to SUSSED itself and neighbouring properties by high-sided vehicles).

SUSSED believes that this area has potential to become an important town centre square offering a better focus for social activities.

For more information contact Margaret Minhinnick on 01656 782962 or mm@sustainablewales.org.uk.

SPEAKER TELLS WI OF WILDLIFE IN THE HIGH ARCTIC

FOLLOWING a very enjoyable post-Christmas evening meal in The Market Place, Cowbridge, on January 8, a good number of Bont Faen WI members turned up despite dreadful weather on January 15 to welcome back Cardiff wildlife speaker, Dr Al Venables.

After sharing his Antarctic research experiences on board a cruise ship with us in 2013, we now learned of his adventures in the Arctic. This cruise took in the Spitsbergen archipelago, the whole area quite inhospitable, with glaciers and bare rocky screes covered by only 10 per cent of vegetation.

In the 17th and 18th centuries there was a great culling of whales, walrus, seals, arctic foxes and polar bears for the popular trades of blubber, ivory and furs.

Now the much depleted natural wildlife can be photographed from a safe distance, with a professional polar bear spotter walking well ahead of visitors to ensure their safety.

Al explained that this area was popular with mining companies for coal and minerals in the late 19th century, with evidence still quite visible. Disputes often arose because the land was unclaimed by any government at that time but in 1905 Norway achieved independence from Sweden and claimed sovereignty by international treaty in 1920.

Al returned to his love of wildlife with beautiful illustrations of Arctic terns, barnacle geese, the centre for dog excursions, and eider ducks nesting nearby.

At Woodfjord, Al came across Brent geese, purple sandpiper, and tufts of saxifrage. From offshore in the inflatable Zodiac boat a polar bear was spotted walking along the shoreline, and shortly afterwards a female with her cub.

Bad weather forced a change of location to catch sight of thousands of Little Auks nesting, the smallest of Arctic birds.

JH

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is ***NANCY DAVIDGE***
"Tyneuydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

O-Dear, What Can The Matter Be?

DRIVING along the Pencoed-Pentre Meurig Road last week, I became aware of the amount of rubbish which has accumulated on the grass verges.

It really has become an eyesore, what has become of the personnel who were engaged to do this work?

Drive along the same road towards Ruthin Common and the scene will change – not a scrap of paper or bottle will be seen.

This is because Coun Keith Jones continues to keep the road between the Ruthin Chapel and the motorway bridge clear of rubbish.

A big thank you to Keith for continuing this unenviable task.

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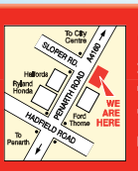

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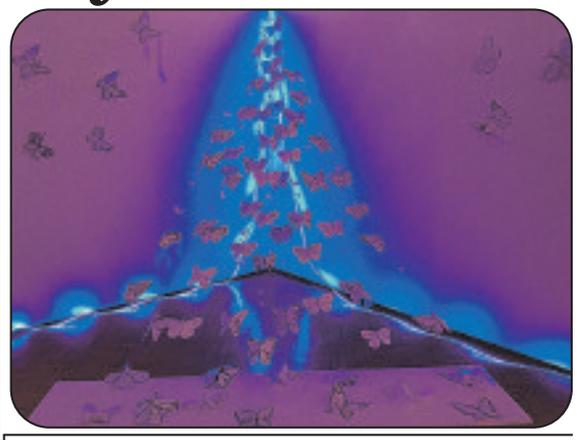
'Keep the memory alive' is vital theme as Holocaust Memorial Day is marked



ABOVE:
Tracey Harding, arts development officer and Art Central gallery manager, Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for art and culture, Nicola Tucker, conflict and war artist, Coun Howard Hamilton, Mayor of the Vale, Josephine Sowden, arts development assistant, Sally Richards, Wales national support worker for HMDT, David Jenkins, High Sheriff of South Glamorgan.

HOLOCAUST Memorial Day was marked on Tuesday (January 27), and as part of the commemoration, Art Central in Barry opened its Holocaust Memorial Exhibition on Monday evening.

The exhibition marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia.

This year, the theme of Holocaust remembrance is more relevant than ever due to the increase in anti-Semitism in Europe – Jewish people in France have been targeted by Islamic extremists, and it has been reported that last year, as many as 7,000 Jews moved from France to Israel.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Coun Howard Hamilton, hosted the evening at Art Central.

The Mayor said: "This is the ninth year the council has staged an exhibition to commemorate this day.

"We have selected the national Holocaust Memorial Trust's theme *'Keep the Memory Alive'* and have delivered arts workshops to over 250 local school children.

"The workshops had a significant impact on the young people some of whom commented on their own personal experiences which enabled them to understand, explore and accept each other's differences.

"The combination of the children's work from the World War Two Terezin ghettos and the work by the school children of today has created an atmospheric exhibition that cannot fail to have a significant impact on the viewer.

"This moving and thought-provoking exhibition enables us to remember the past and consider the part we can play in challenging hatred and bullying to create a safer and better future for us all."

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for arts and culture told guests: "The Vale's Holocaust Memorial exhibition specifically focuses on art work and poetry created during the Second World War by the 'Children of the Terezin'. Terezin was a walled ghetto in the Czech Republic.

"During World War Two, 150,000 people were sent to Terezin – approximately three times the population of Barry here in the Vale – 15,000 of these were children; a mere 100 of these children survived the horrors of the camp, the others' lives cut short, their futures unjustly stolen, as many perished at Auschwitz.

"The ghetto killed many things, but it could not destroy the hope and creativity of the children; displayed within this exhibition are drawings and a few poems created by the young people whilst they were confined.

"The poem *'I haven't seen a Butterfly around Here'* inspired the installation of white butterflies created by the children in Vale primary schools who are honouring the memory of the children of Terezin.

"Working with over 250 primary school children in the Vale of Glamorgan, conflict and war artist Nicola Tucker, together with the council's arts development team, Tracey Harding and Josephine Sowden delivered workshops in schools for 9 – 11 year olds.

"The creative workshops focused on the history of the Second World War, and the impact it had on the 'Children of the Terezin'.

"Nicola and Tracey translated the eight steps of 'Genocide' into eight steps to 'Bullying'.

"The workshops focused on why we should be kind to each other, the workshops described Europe as the children's school playground and how that can be divided by individuals or groups of children to embrace or segregate others through name calling, or social media.

"The workshops had a significant impact on the young people some of whom commented on their own personal experiences.

"We also have on show the annual 'Race Equality First Calendar and Poster' designs themed 'We Are All Equal', created by children from Vale and Cardiff Schools."

LIBERATION

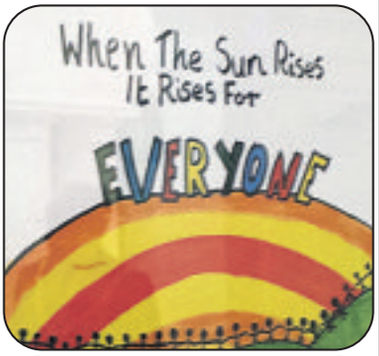
The High Sheriff of the South Glamorgan David Jenkins read the Stockholm declaration *'Statement of Commitment'* created on January 27, 2000, when representatives from 46 governments around the world met in Stockholm to discuss Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

At the end of that meeting, all attendees signed a declaration committing to preserving the memory of those who have been murdered in the Holocaust.

January 27, the date of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, was named Holocaust Memorial Day in 2001. Over the last 13 years thousands of events have taken place across the UK on or around this day to ensure the stories relating to the Holocaust are never forgotten.

Art Central Gallery is open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. The 'Keep the Memory Alive' exhibition runs until Saturday, February 21, 2015.

For more information on the exhibition visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or contact the Arts Development Team on 01446 709805, or email artinthevale@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk .



MYSTERY DAMAGE TO HISTORIC FOUNTAIN

A HISTORIC fountain in the centre of old Dinas Powys has suffered massive damage and an appeal has been launched for information as to what caused it.

The fountain is built into a wall around the square which is in the shape of a triangle on the Twyn.

It is located at the junction of Station Road and Elmgrove Road and opposite The Horseshoes.

The supporting wall has also been badly damaged. Coun Chris Franks, chair of the community council, said people were upset to see what had happened to a part of the village's past.

He said: "The fountain has been smashed in two from what we can determine. This is a small link with our past and is a great shame.

"Although the water supply was cut off some time ago, it reminds everyone that not so long ago, Dinas Powys was a rural community.

"The wall was hit by a significant force. We suspect that a vehicle involved that was very powerful.

"We are investigating this matter and have obtained CCTV evidence which is being examined. However, if anyone has information, please let us know.

"The community council refurbished the fountain two years ago and had hoped that it would be in good repair for many years to come.

"The council has made the area safe and will now have to decide what is the best course of action."

Could a post office move to Barry Road?

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns has met a prospective new Post Office operator in Barry to discuss plans after Co-operative food stores announced the closure of the post office on Colcot Road.

Mr Cairns met Pam Dhesi from a nearby store to discuss the possibility of her store accommodating a new postal facility.

Pam Dhesi said: "I am keen to take over the running of the facility, and have spoken with the Post Office to register my interest. I discussed the potential of the site with Alun Cairns, and explained that I have previously operated a successful post office. It is a natural fit for our store."

Mr Cairns said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to identify a new site so quickly in Barry. The decision by the Co-op is disappointing, but to have such an experienced and capable operator in Pam and her team is very good news. I have been in touch with the Post Office to support the bid."

Vale AM Jane Hutt has met Mike Ash-Edwards of the Co-operative Group to protest about the recent announcement of the closure of the Colcot Road (Williams Store) post office.

She reported: "I told Mr Ash-Edwards that there has been a post office at the Williams Store for over 30 years and its closure would be a huge loss to the community – especially following the recent closure of Highlight Park post office.

"I have urged him to re-consider," she added.

'HUB' SCHOOLS SET TO PROVIDE IMPROVEMENTS

FIFTEEN schools from across south Wales, including the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs, have been chosen by the Central South Consortium to offer school improvement programmes from January.

The schools are named Olevi Hubs, which have been accredited by leading training firm Olevi International.

They will construct support programmes which can be accessed by the 408 schools across central south Wales.

Coun Chris Elmore, Vale cabinet member for children's services, said: "What has been established is a network through which some of the best schools in Wales can share the knowledge and expertise that have brought them success."

They included: Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg; '4Schools' (a collaboration between Barry Island Primary School, Cadoxton Primary School, Rhws Primary School and Romilly Primary School); Y Pant Comprehensive School; Maesteg School.

Barry Seconds hold out for win

BARRY 2nd XV finally got the 2015 under way as they hosted Clwb Rygbi in damp conditions at Reservoir Fields.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were once again put to the test with late withdrawals, forcing them to hand Chris Parker a return to rugby after 18 months out, while Gareth Hall and Jordan Clarke were promoted from the successful 3rd XV last weekend.

The visitors coped better with the conditions early on, as they were assisted by the wind and slope and put the Barry tight five under enormous pressure, especially at scrum time.

The home line-out fared no better either, and this gave Clwb Rygbi the opportunity to lay siege to the Barry line, and the pressure duly told after 15 minutes when they crashed over for a well-worked try.

Barry huffed and puffed but could not give their backs quality ball from which they could work with, and instead were dominated by their visitors' forwards who appeared to be fitter. It seemed as if this was going to be a fruitless afternoon for the green-and-whites.

However, in a five minute period the game turned on its head. First, from inside their own 22, Richie O'Sullivan ran when he could have kicked, creating the space necessary for centres Busuttil and Dicks to work with, and Dave Evans was on hand to finish well in the corner. O'Sullivan was unable to add the extras but Barry were back in the game.

In the blink of an eye the game has taken a turn, and Barry poured forward in search of their second try. It duly came, again from great interplay with the backs, and this time Evans turned provider for the supporting Rhidian Mepham to score near the posts. O'Sullivan added the extras.

Back came Clwb Rygbi however, and following some naïve defending and indiscretion in the contact area, Barry were punished with a try near their posts with the conversion a formality.

At halftime the game was nicely poised, and coach Scott emphasised the need to secure home ball in the contact area.

His point was duly noted, and when Parker was sent on as reinforcement early in the second half, Barry took a stranglehold in the game.

Fly half O'Sullivan put his side ahead with a well-struck penalty 10 minutes into the second half. Now looking increasingly threatening, Barry pressurised the CRCC backline into errors that gave the home side territory and possession – an advantage that they would not relent.

After camping deep in the away 22 patiently, Mepham finally found Lloyd Dutton, who crashed through to score. O'Sullivan added the extras to put his side two scores ahead.

There were to be no comeback for the visitors as they were denied even a losing bonus point for their efforts despite laying siege to the Barry line late on.

The resolute defending was a reflection of the grit and determination shown by the home side to secure a win in the first time of asking in 2015. Final score 22-14.

The 2nd XV will travel to Glamorgan Wanderers this weekend, while the 3rd XV visit Dinas Powys.

Team: Adams; D Evans, Busuttil, Dicks, Knapman; O'Sullivan, Mepham; Thomas, Turnbull, Pirso; Dutton, Oaten; Morris, Jones ©, Rolfe. Replacements: Hall, J Evans, Parker, Clarke. Man of the match: Mepham.

KC

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THE BARRY DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

On January 16, the BFC Allsorts finally lost their unbeaten record by losing 12-9 away to the Billy Ghosts.

The Cwm Talwg had a big 21-0 win away to the Hell Raisers with Nicky Smith hitting a 180.

The Poachers overcame the Caddy Cons Raiders 17-4 with Jon Hurn, Terry Williams and Ray Way all hitting 180s.

The Mariners beat the Loungers 17-4 and the Plastics had a 12-9 win against the Wanderers.

The Park Weasels had a 15-6 away win against the Tynewydd while the Dockers overcame the Runways 13-8.

On January 23, the BFC Allsorts beat the Raiders 18-3 with John Morgan hitting a 114 out shot and Peter deSouza hitting a 106 out.

The Tynewydd traveled to Rhoose to get a 13-8 victory over the Runways. Gareth Owens hit a 180 and Ashley Baker hit a 100 out shot.

The Cwm Talwg had a comfortable 16-5 home win over the Mariners while the Billy Ghosts remain on top of the league with a 13-8 away win over the Park Weasels.

The Dockers were away to the Wanderers and had a 13-8 win, with Nicky Williams hitting a 180, and the Plastics won 18-3 away to the Loungers.

RL

Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday January 20, there was a big turn out to support the players competing in the semi-finals and final of the Clive Blick Trophy at the Old Post.

The winners were Trish Kinman, Steve Simmonite and Cedric Simmonite (Edmondes A) who defeated Maureen Fleming, Nigel Thomas and Robert Jones (Farmers Arms) 3-1 in the final.

The losing semi-finalist were Sally McCaver, Rob McCaver and John Izzard (Hare & Hounds) and Richie Williams, Joan Burt and Amanda Hole (Old Post Ladies and Edmondes 'C').

Present league standings after 12 matches, are: Llanharry (88 points), Edmondes B (64), Edmondes A (59), Highwayman Inn (55), Hare and Hounds (53), Farmer's Arms (45), Edmondes C (42) and Old Post Ladies (24).

On Tuesday, Feburary 3, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes A hosts the Hare and Hounds, the Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondes B, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes C and Llanharry hosts the Farmers Arms. All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

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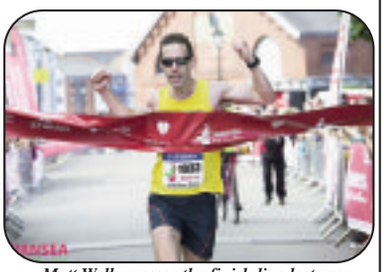

Matt Wells crosses the finish line last year.

THE winner of last year's JCP Swansea Half Marathon, Matthew Wells from Bridgend, is urging runners, keep-fitters and complete beginners to join this year's event on Sunday, June 14.

Matthew, a member of Bridgend Athletics Club, completed last year's course in one hour, 14 minutes and 39 seconds – a time he plans to beat in June.

The new improved route will set off from the heart of the city centre, starting on Oxford Street, before taking in a lap of the Kingsway, running past Swansea Castle, down Wind Street, before heading along Mumbles Road and turning at Knab Rock.

Matthew said: "One of the things that is so enjoyable about events like the JCP Swansea Half Marathon is that you have elite athletes at the start line along with people who are there to enjoy the atmosphere and the fun of it, and people who are doing their bit to support some very good causes."

Matthew, aged 30, is a family lawyer based at Swansea's JCP Solicitors, who put their weight behind the annual run by signing up as principal sponsor.

To sign up to this year's JCP Swansea Half Marathon go to: www.swanseahalf marathon.co.uk.

News from the Sully Centurions

IT may be still be winter but Sully Centurions cricket club are already gearing up for the new season, which will be the club's 60th anniversary year.

On Thursday, January 29, the club holds its annual general meeting at the Seashore Grill, Sully, commencing at 7.30pm. All members are urged to attend to have a say in the running of the club.

The pre-season indoor nets start on February 3 at the newly opened Four Squares Sports facility on Penarth Road, Cardiff (next to the Hyundai showroom); juniors 6pm-7pm, seniors 7pm-8pm. Anyone interested in joining the club, senior or junior, is cordially invited to attend these sessions.

The club has also been informed of the draws for the Welsh Cup and the National Village Cup for the 2015 season - Village Cup (Sunday, May 17) at home against Pentyrch CC, where the winners will host Ynystawe CC in the next round, and in the Welsh Cup (Sunday, June 7) we are at home against Ponthir CC.

Finally, congratulations to the club's welfare officer, Jemima Sylvester, on two fronts - firstly, for passing the 'safeguarding children' course with flying colours, but most of all for the announcement of her engagement to Ross - all at the club send their best wishes.

MF

Sully Bridge Club results

MONDAY, January 19:

North/South - 1st Trish Tracy/Mike Hurst 60.19, 2nd Pat Walker/Beryl Marke 54.40, 3rd Judy Collins/Shirley Powell 53.24. East/West - 1st John Pikoulis/Anne Johns 73.15, 2nd Peter Millar/Jane Brook 69.44, 3rd Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones 56.02.

Wednesday, January 21: North/South - 1st Carol James/Alan James 59.47, 2nd Jane Greatrex/Mair Colley 58.90, 3rd Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 58.90. East/West - 1st Celia Thomas/Huw Thomas 64.20, 2nd Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones 63.45, 3rd David Hopkins/Carol Cochlin 60.61.

Saturday, January 24: North/South - 1st Joan Thomson/Sheilagh Kavanagh 57.00, 2nd Jane Greatrex/Anne Hilary Jones 53.50. East/West - 1st Una Gavin/Brenda Shepherd 54.00, 2nd Peter Craig/ Hazell Craig 53.00.

EK

Barry Atoms and Cowbridge in a real thriller

THIS game between Barry Atoms under-12s and Cowbridge was a real thriller and pleasure to watch on a heavy pitch.

This Barry side is coming of age and although there was a magnificent solo try scored by Rory, this was a team display - they stood up and were counted. Final score: Cowbridge 10, Barry Atoms 7.

Squad: Couchy, Rhys, Jamie, Harry, Eski, Mason, Connor, Fin, Rory, Zak, Cai, Taylor, Iestyn, Anton, Norm, Ben, Ethan, Jack L, Jack R, Meg.

DD

Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 20:

1st Mike Close & Denis Mottram 67.08%; 2nd Mark Roderick & Kay Dyer 66.25%; 3rd Simon & Debbie Richards 56.67%. Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

The Barry & District mens skittle league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers (M.Could 30) 300, Bunker Boys (A.Jeynes 29) 284; Barry Park 'B' (R.Freeman 28) 268, Geest (L.Galsworthy 27) 273; Blue Monkey (T.Clode 28) 266, Ex-Servicemen (G.Dent 28) 267; Geest (L.Galsworthy 33) 289, Park Lads (I.Twaddle 31) 271; Park Rangers (G.Bennett 28) 274, The Merrymen (M.Davies 31) 271; Park Lads (D.Morgan 28) 270, The Hairy Lemons (T.Linney 30) 260; The Merrymen (M.Davies 29) 49'ers (J.McInery. J.Yarr 31) 315; West End Stars (D.Grigg 29) 267, Cavaliers (B.Stephenson 30) 260.

Division 2:

Barry Social (T.Richards 29) 259, Abercrete (D.Arnold, J.Arnold, R.Mountjoy 24) 238; Exiles (A.Collins, G.Mitchell, T.Williams 26) 256, Road Runners (A.Guppy 28) 265; Posties (I.Jones 30) 267, Tynny Fliers (M.Kirke 28) 259; Sea View (K.Pycroft 31) 293, Tynewydd Lads (D.Sluman 34) 276; The Royalists (J.McEwan 32) 324, Witchill Wizards (A.Butler 27) 262; The Royalists (G.Evens 28) 286, Tynewydd Lads (D.Kerslake 29) 288; Willie Wombles (P.Jefferies 28) 265, BP Breakaways (P.Garsiner, J.Mills 27) 277; Tynewydd Lads (Sluman 31) 286, Witchill Wizards (C.Wylam 29) 296; Witchill Poachers (D.Richardson 38) 335, Buffs Exiles (I.Dowdere 36) 342.

Division 3:

Billy Whizz (J.Falligia 28) 266, The Rejects (P.Edgar 31) 272; Cannon Balls (D.Pike 33) 308, West End Fliers (R.Green 33) 319; 'H' Bells (T.Mullins 30) 293, Castle Boys (J.Adams, N.Hughes 27) 262; KP Monkeynuts (K.Payne 32) 283, Billy Whizz (T.Hunt, D.Miller 24) 255; West End Fliers (T.Clements 28) 264, British Rail (R.Wheeler 31) 259.

HR

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Brian's (point-to-point) blast from the past!

I was surprised by the number of references to point-to-point riders who hailed from the Vale I come across when looking through one of my many press cutting books from the 1970s.

The first one dealt with Bonvilston farmer Tudor Harris and, under a picture of him riding a horse called *Pipplepen* to victory, I told how Tudor had ridden his first winner at the age of 16 on a horse called *Old Beauty*, a 33-1 outsider at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases.

The next clipping told how Bridgend butcher David Oakes, who had been associated with Hereford's Bill Bryan and horses Prince Abbyss, Jim Lad and *General Imp*, had split and how he would from then on be riding on the Welsh hunt-racing circuit.

There was also a reference to Aberthin farmer Ross Farr, the then reigning Welsh champion rider who had bought from Peter Cundell's yard a horse called *Etruscan King* on which he had won three point-to-point races in the west Wales area.

Another cutting, dated February 28, 1977, under the heading '16-1 Gary Top Of The Form' revealed how Gary Perkins, a 16-year-old pupil of Pencoed Secondary School, who was having just his second ride in public, rode 16-1 chance *Fleetwood* to victory at the Tivyside Hunt Steeplechases.

Another heading reads 'Housewife Bags A Double' and this was in reference to local trainer Evan Williams' mother Mary Williams, who had ridden a double at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases at St Hilary.

Mary took the members' race on *Rory M* and later the ladies' open race on the towering *Underhill* which beat Wales' most famous point-to-pointer *Mandryka* by three lengths after taking the lead at the second last fence.

Also in the news was Coychurch's Paul Hamer, a 17-year-old welding apprentice, who chalked up his first winner on Dillwyn Thomas' *Cefn Soloman* at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point.

Paul went on to greater things, including winning a hunter chase at Sandown Park on his brother Geoffrey's *Yellow Jersey*.

Then there was my story of Cowbridge's Anne Williams, celebrating her 21st birthday one day early when winning the ladies' open race on her father Ted Williams' *Channel Ten* at the Gelligaer Farmers fixture.

The legendary Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn appears in many of my scrapbooks but on this occasion we will only give him one mention.

It was at the Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point at Howick, near Chepstow, that John, riding a horse called *Cloud Castle*, whose owner Mrs Jean French had rescued from the slaughterhouse, scored an impressive win in the men's open race when beating the much thought of *Master Straight*.

One of the funniest items was about David Williams standing on top of the second last fence at St Hilary after being unseated by his mount *Saravant*. Amazingly he went on to win the race, and if you know how he managed to do so then please let me know, as I have forgotten.

Please e-mail your point-to-point memories/news to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

TOM'S JEDFOREST WINNER

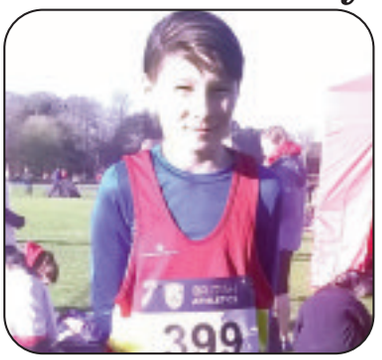
Tom David from Llanharan, who is assistant trainer to Zara Phillips, landed the men's open race at the Jedforest Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on *Woodview Prince*, who came home six lengths ahead of *Cave Hunter*.

Meanwhile, at the Tiverton Hunt Point-To-Point at Chipley Park, *Silver Token*, partnered by Harry Cobden, and owned and trained by David Brace of the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, was a 2-1 winner of the club members' race.

The mixed open race here was won by 12-1 chance *Parkam Jack* who, ridden by Welsh champion rider John Mathias, beat the odds-on favourite *Certain Flight,* ridden by Will Biddick.

BRIAN LEE

Cross country season test for pupils



Jack Blackmore (year-8) represented Barry Comprehensive in the Cardiff Cross Challenge.

Joseph Hewings (left) finished in third place in the under-17 men's event.

TWO Barry Comprehensive School students represented the school in the Cardiff Cross Challenge for Cardiff and the Vale Schools on Sunday, January 17.

Jospeh Hewings (year-10) and Jack Blackmore (year-8) ran extremely well, with Jack finishing in 45th place in the under-15 boys schools event and Joseph finishing in third place in the under-17 men's event.

It was excellent work by both in very tricky, muddy conditions.

AC

Quarks shock Phoenix to go top of the league

THE league table for division three of the East Glamorgan Chess Association is quite a surprise at the moment, because the Barry Quarks team are top of the league!

No, it's really true. The Quarks travelled to Pontypridd to play the Phoenix. They are the only team so far to have given us a hiding so the omens were not good.

However, with Kevin Gandy leading the team on board one, we returned with a 4–1 win. We won all three games with the white pieces and with black we managed two draws.

At the start of the season we were merely looking to consolidate and were almost expecting to be in a relegation battle. However, now it seems we have entered the race for promotion to division two.

Alas, it was not so good for the Camelots. All season, they have been at the top of the first division. However, they recorded a disappointing loss to the Cardiff Monarchs, 3–2.

Only Ashley Davis won his game and the rest of the team could only manage two draws and two defeats. The Camelots have now dropped to third in the table.

With the Cardiff Castles picking up four points, the Camelots are now 4.5 points off the pace and their title charge is faltering. They only have a further seven games to try to catch up.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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Barry and District ladies skittles league

RESULTS for week commencing January 12:

First division: SV Gals (J Cannon 32() 281, Allsorts (C Griffiths 29) 274; Coppers (J Hartnell, J Williams 31) 325, Special Angels (L Brigham, C Thomas, L Mountford 29) 309; Barry Stars (M Richards 39) 320, Colcot Ladies (H Edwards 33) 312; Pila Palas (S Bennett 32) 295, Cigar Ladies (B Gough, G Wood 26) 242; Family and Friends (R White 25) 208, Bakers Dozen (N Martin 28) 254.

Second division: Witchill Widows (C Gregory 34) 324, Strikers (L Goodwin 31) 336; Roller Coasters (J Marriott 26) 202, Clickies (M Williams 28) 225; After Eights (E Tombs, P Mepham 30) 307, Bobby's Girls (B Macdonald 35) 292; SV Lights (D Masterman, D Thomas, N Alsop 28) 293, Castle Bandits (D Collard 31) 296; Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 26) 253, Breakaways (L Smith 26) 239.

Third division: Airways Angels (A Crook 27) 250, Rhoose Ravers (M Griffiths 28) 260; Jolly Dollies (M Enticott, C Thomas 27) 213, Witchill Wanderers (C Nicholson, L Selby 23) 199; Westenders (J Jeynes 31) 269, Rugby Triers (M Wilson 29) 210; Hill Billies (Moorcraft 33) 325, SV Ladies (R Leach 33) 310; Dolly Mixtures (T Rowsell 22) 191, Lil's Devlls (J Jones 26) 215; Persuaders (E Gardner 28) 228, Etcetera (M Grasby 26) 222; Friends and Neighbours (L Williams 30) 257, Merry Maker (C Hatcher, T Lesimere, C Rowles 28) 290.

Fourth division: Rebels (L Spurr 21) 194, Odd Bods (N Williams 23) 197; Twilights (C Kaged 23) 212, Railway Rogues (C Rogers 24) 202; Off The Rails (J Davies 23) 170, Challengers (L Morgan 28) 235; BFFs (L Howells 25) 208, Wyndham Witches (Y Cumau 23) 222; Fallen Angels (N Edwards 31) 281, La Belles (N Cordy, S Peacock 25) 226.

Fifth division: Liberals (K Palmers 31) 266, Barry Ravers (L Hodder, J Gough 25) 226; Socialites (J Fumis 29) 263, Aristocats (A Scott 31) 261; Billy Bunters (G Loveless 27) 244, Guardian Angels (S Aston 30) 182.

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Bridgend Athletic bounce back with an impressive win

ABOVE: Rob Evans breaks, while RIGHT: Dan Apsee crashes through the Cardiff Met defence. ALL PHOTOS BY GLENNSPORTS

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC bounced back from a narrow defeat last week at the hands of Glynneath to register a fine win against the students of Cardiff Met, who, at the start of the day, were lying third in the Championship table behind big spenders Bargoed and once mighty Swansea.

The game was played in bright clear conditions under a winter sun but the ground underfoot was rather greasy and proved treacherous to players attempting to change direction at speed throughout the game.

Both teams were happy to kick for position in the early stages and the visitors had the better of these exchanges to establish a foothold in the Athletic 22, but the home team set out their stall early on and demonstrated a very dynamic and miserly defence that snuffed out every chance the students were able to manufacture.

The back row of captain Sean Williams, number 8 Dan Apsee and the whirling dervish Ben Howe swarmed all over their opponents, ably supported by centres Ryan Owen and Tom Morgan along with a posse of their teammates.

The Ath were able to break the early pressure when they won a line-out on their own 22 and followed this up with three quick rucks. With the defence on the back foot fly-half Rob Evans, making a welcome return to Ath colours after a long break, and playing in place of top points scorer Josh White, showed a clean pair of heels to his opposite number as he scythed through.

His long raking kick behind the defence just dribbled into touch near the corner ahead of the onrushing Dan Howells. The visitors were able to clear their lines and returned to the attack in the Athletic half. They had three opportunities to press home their attacks but were thwarted on each occasion; twice by poor handling forced by pressure from Chris Price and once by a crunching tackle from home full-back Lindsay MacCausland.

It was around about this time that the Athletic scrum began to dominate their opponents despite the fact that they were up against a man-mountain in Will Norton on the students' loosehead.

Matt Muir, Nathan Holman and Rod Apsee were putting their opposing front-row under great pressure ably supported by second-rows Tom Penry-Ellis and Henri Williams (on for the injured Darren Deguerra).

The strong scrum laid a solid platform and when Met kicked loosely into the Ath half the ball was transferred quickly out to Ryan Owen who broke a couple of tackle before making ground up the flank and passing to Tom Morgan but as the centre offloaded what would have been a scoring pass back to Owen, the ball went forward and the chance was gone.

Despite this dominance in the tight there was still some poor work at the ruck and when a penalty occurred at a ruck 30 metres out the Athletic were fortunate to escape when visiting fly-half Jacob Chilcott sent his kick wide.

But within minutes he made amends when another penalty was awarded at the ruck and his successful kick opened the scoring. As the half drew to a close a scuffle between the teams near halfway resulted in Ath captain Sean Williams and Met lock Jordan Hogan being sent to the sinbin to cool their tempers for 10 minutes.

At the start of the second half the Athletic increased the tempo of the game and scrum-half Jake Williams drove his team on relentlessly. It was he that made a break close to the ruck that was carried on by Howe and then Dan Apsee to set up a good position near the opposition line that was only negated when visiting hooker Dafydd Hughes killed the ball and was also sent to the bin only minutes after the previous occupants returned to the fray.

Unfortunately the resulting penalty was missed but it wasn't long before another bout of high tempo support play from Rod Apsee, Ben Howe and Nathan Holman took play to the students' line. A beautifully orchestrated scrum-drive rolled the visitors back and Dan Apsee touched down for a try that Rob Evans converted.

Soon after, an attack by the Ath released Dan Howells who attempted to chip the defence. Although the full-back cleared the danger momentarily, Williams counter-attacked but was cynically obstructed when he kicked over the defence. Rob Evans slotted over the penalty goal to give the Athletic a 10-3 lead.

Once more the Athletic returned to the attack and were both disappointed and baffled when referee, Mr Phillips, penalised their scrum as it surged forward towards the opponents' line.

This let-off inspired Cardiff Met into a renewed effort to penetrate the home defence to even the scores, but replacements Matthew Hillman, Gruff Davies and Huw Morris were equally forceful in disrupting their plans.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Bridgend DFC impress

BRIDGEND DFC recently took two teams to Telford to play in the three counties ability counts league and cup.

The first game saw our team take on Telford Juniors B team in the 7-a-side league. After the team had settled down, the lads started playing some good football which paid off at the end, winning 5-3.

Then it was cup time. After splitting our lads into two sides it was down to business; the A team had games against Worcester All Stars A, Hereford A and Telford Juniors A. What a hard group, but the lads' hard work paid off with a 2-1 win over Worcester, a 4-2 win over Hereford and a goaless draw with Telford. In March they will play in a playoff with Telford to see who goes through to the final.

The B team had to face Dudley Special Olympics A, Worcester Allstars B and DNS. This group was very tough but Bridgend B team won 1-0 against Dudley, 5-1 against Worcester B but then lost 1-0 to DNS; as the team finished on joint points, they will have to play in a playoff to get to the final in March.

The football was fantastic and credit must go to all the players.

KH

Tom Briggs looks for the gap in the first team's encounter with Bonymaen. PICTURE BY PETER GILLING

Kenfig Hill slip to Bonymaen defeat

FROM the beginning of this game, Bonymaen showed why they started the day top of Division 1 by trying to move the ball at every opportunity on a sticky pitch.

Joe Williams in action for the seconds. PICTURE BY JOHN HYDE

Kenfig Hill did not help themselves by relinquishing so much possession enabling allowing Bonymaen to quickly score three breakaway tries. These were quickly followed by a penalty try against the Mules and a 22 point deficit.

Kenfig Hill managed to finish the first half with a fine driving maul resulting in a try for loosehead prop Lewis David converted by Lloyd Giles.

The second half started well for Kenfig Hill. Some fresh legs started to show some real fight and managed two tries by Evan Williams and Luke Fitzgerald, converted by Luke Griffiths. However, a second Bonymaen penalty try, converted by Paul Davies, put an end to the fightback. The Mules will be complimented on the 'never say die' response to the halftime score but they eventually ran out of time, Bonymaen the worthy winners, 29-21.

KENFIG HILL SECONDS 17 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 24

Kenfig Hill seconds put on a battling display to overcome a lively Bridgend Athletic XV in heavy conditions at Newbridge Fields.

The Mules travelled with a bare 15 to this District Cup match but each and every player deserves praise for their commitment throughout the 80 minutes of this tough game.

Bridgend Athletic dominated the majority of the first half scoring a penalty and converted try that followed a fine driving maul. However, the Mules pack began to dominate the set piece and in the final five minutes of the first half, following a number of reset scrums, the ball was whisked away by scrum half Craig Williams to put fly-half Lee Rodgers over for a well taken try. Stand-in winger Shaun Evans kicked the conversion to leave the halftime score 10-7 to the Athletic.

The second half was a more even and open affair with the speedy Bridgend back line looking to run the ball whenever possible, Only tenacious tackling from the Mules stopped the game running away from them.

Athletic scored next with a converted try following a turnover at the breakdown 30 yards out. The spirit of the Kenfig Hill boys never wavered and the pressure of the pack finally told with a try at the corner for Luke Turton, converted by Shaun Evans.

The game was now being played mostly in the Athletic's half and the pressure told once again as Turton crashed over for his second try. This was converted majestically by Shaun Evans, whose no frills approach to goalkicking was quite refreshing.

The Mules were now in the lead for the first time and although the Athletic continued to run the ball, stout tackling kept them at bay. To cap it all off the Mules were awarded a penalty all of 30 yards out and the referee called final play.

Instead of kicking the ball out of play, winger Evans calmly strolled up and put the ball between the posts to leave the final score Bridgend Athletic 17, Kenfig Hill 24.

A good game of rugby played in excellent spirit with great effort by both sides.

KENFIG HILL UNDER-9S 17 BRIDGEND SPORTS 13

After last week's impressive victory over neighbours Bridgend Athletic, Sports were brought back to earth by Kenfig Hill at Groft Goch Fields.

With Bridgend Sports constantly committing two players to the tackle space became available for the Mules to score some outstanding long range tries. The game was quick and turnover quicker with outstanding tackling by both sides.

The heavy pitch was no hindrance to the players as the game ebbed and flowed but the Mules were too strong in the end.

The Mules' man of the match was Donovan Rankin.

DHD